

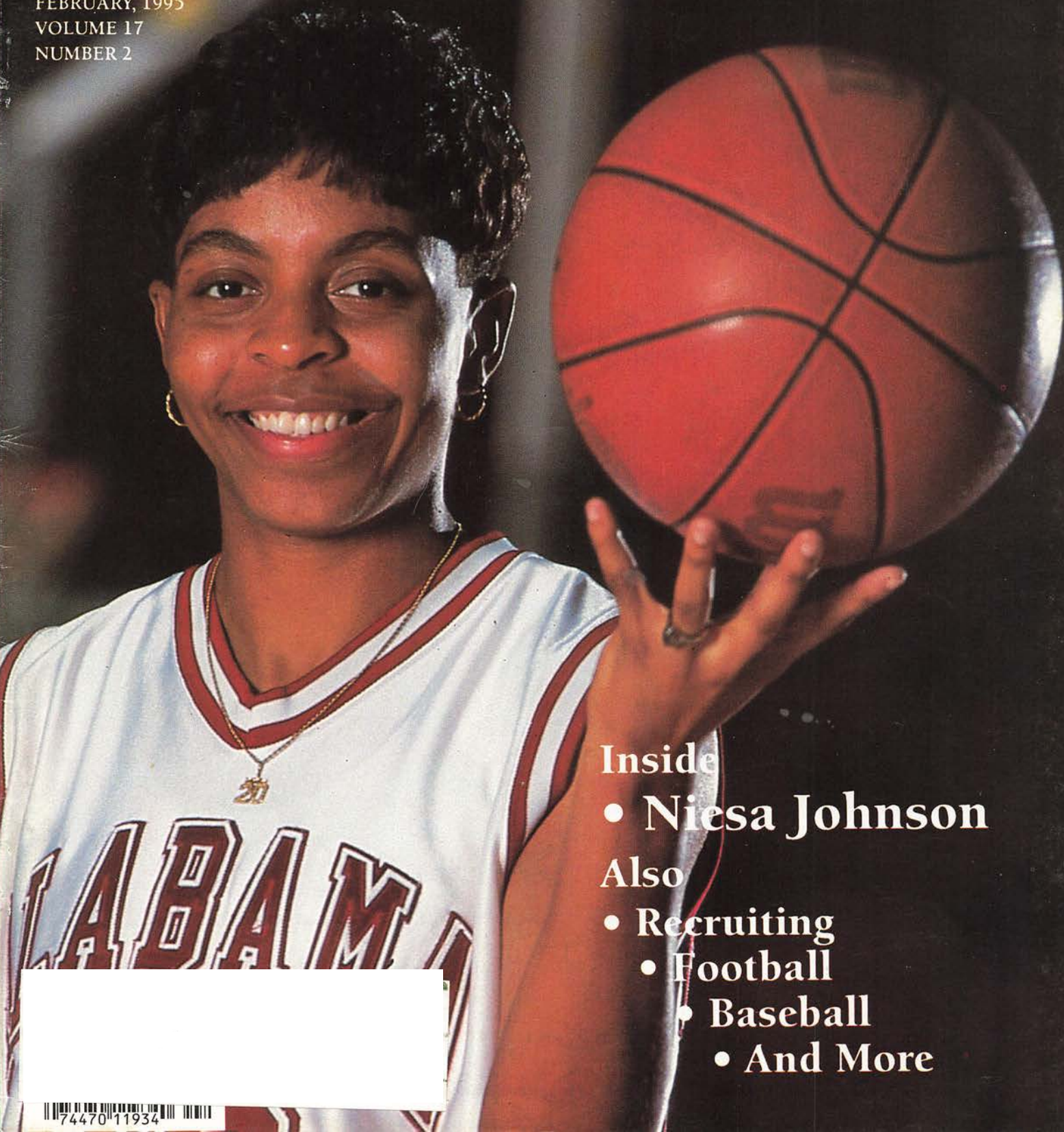
# 'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

FEBRUARY, 1995

VOLUME 17

NUMBER 2



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- Niesa Johnson

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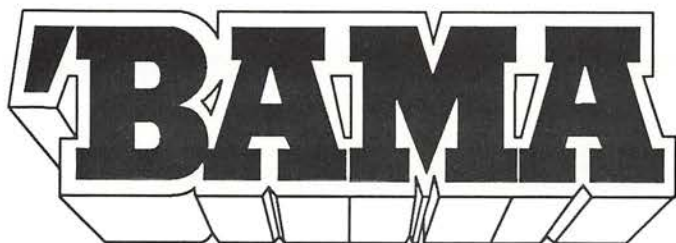
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

FEBRUARY, 1995

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 2

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Barry Fikes Photo



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The national signing day for high school senior football players is February 1. Alabama is not going to have a very large class of newcomers, but, as usual, it should include some of the finest prospects in the country. by Kirk McNair

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Senior Niesa Johnson, an All-America guard for the women's basketball team, may be the most honored player in Crimson Tide history. However, Niesa sets her goals high. She doesn't want to be just Bama's all-time best or this year's best in the nation. She wants to be the best who ever played.

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# Football Signing Day Closing In

by Kirk McNair

Tide apparently will have small class, but another group of talented players

**T**he object of recruiting is to add players, some for the immediate future, some for two or three years later. Ideally, a team adds quality and quantity (and the most important is quality). Tradition-rich Alabama rarely has a poor football recruiting year insofar as quality. Thus, the class is judged primarily on quantity. Twenty-five highly-regarded signees is obviously a better crop than 15 additions.

Alabama has about 67 scholarshiped players returning for next season. The overall limit for scholarshiped players who may be on the team when practice begins in August is 85. Thus, even if there was no further attrition (owing to injury, academics, or any other reason that would cause a player to leave) from the current squad, Bama should be able to sign 18 players on February 1.

Most schools don't worry about the overall limit, signing 25 (or even more) players each year. Every player is on a one-year scholarship, so a team with more signees than slots available could "cut" a returning player from scholarship. However, that is not Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings' style. Even though he knows there will almost certainly be some attrition between February and August, he will not allow his staff to sign more players than he has room

for. The moral high road that Alabama takes is based on the theory that if Bama has signed a player who is not good enough it means the coaching staff made a mistake in evaluating and signing him. Therefore, the player is not going to be punished for a mistake made by the staff.

Eighteen new quality players to go along with what the Crimson Tide has returning would seem to be adequate. However, it appears Alabama plans to sign no more than 14-16 football prospects, including defensive back Kevin Jackson, who signed in the early junior college signing period in December and is now enrolled at The University. Why not sign at least 18? There are all sorts of possibilities, including evaluations of this year's seniors against next year's (when Bama again returns a large number of scholarshiped players), the possibility of later signees or transfers, etc. Only Stallings has all the facts to make a determination on the number to sign.

One surprising aspect of Alabama recruiting this year was the few number of prospects making official visits. A school is permitted to bring 56 players in on official visits (meaning paid for by the school). With 10 days before signing it appeared Bama had brought only 33 prospects in for official visits with no more than two or three others expected to visit in the final week.

A primary reason for that could be the relatively small number of Alabama high school players who were actively recruited by Alabama. It is believed Bama offered no more than eight scholarships in-state. The players considered the number one prospect in Alabama in pre-season, defensive lineman Pernell Davis of Birmingham West End, was not among those brought in for official visits.

**O**rdinarily, Alabama does not need immediate help from incoming freshmen. However, the 1995 season could be an exception.

The Crimson Tide secondary was hit hard by graduation, three starters playing their final seasons in 1994. Reliable reports put the number of new defensive back prospects Alabama wants to sign at five or six. Kevin Jackson, who projects as a strong safety, is one of those, and two of the early commitments of high school seniors are also defensive backs. Fernando Bryant, 6-0, 175, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Thomas Hill, 5-10, 170, of Meridian, Mississippi, both project as cornerbacks. Alabama was also thought to be very close to receiving commitments from Kelvin Signer, 6-1, 175, of Mobile Shaw, another cornerback prospect, and Steven Stanley, 6-4, 195, of Leighton Colbert County, an all-around athlete who could play any of several offensive or defensive positions, including secondary spots. Bama is also involved with Tavokious Bonner, 6-2, 180, of Lanett, and Earl Chambers, 6-2, 175, of College Park, Georgia. Chambers committed to Georgia, then announced he would go to Georgia if he decided to play offense, to Alabama if he elected to be a defensive back. The most important defensive back who got away is Marlon Taylor of Smiths Station, who committed to Auburn early.

(In this year of the commitment not meaning much, Taylor wanted to visit Alabama in late January, but Tide coaches would not bring him in.)

There are several areas where Alabama does not need help in the near future, and it was obvious in the recruiting process that Bama was not going after quarterbacks, linebackers or kickers. Actually, the Tide got an early commitment from a very good quarterback, Billy Luckie of Fort Walton Beach, Florida. However, Luckie reneged on his commitment and selected Clemson. Although it sounds like rationalization, Luckie's defection may have been a benefit in view of Bama's few available scholarships. The Tide's lack of need at linebacker enabled Auburn to get two excellent ones without having to battle Bama. Tucker Dearth of Birmingham and Barrett Askew of Lanett are excellent prospects for the Tigers.

Oddly, Alabama and Auburn have gone head-to-head for very few prospects this



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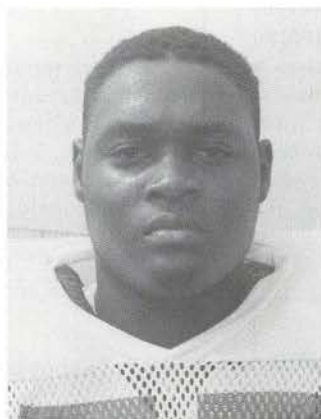




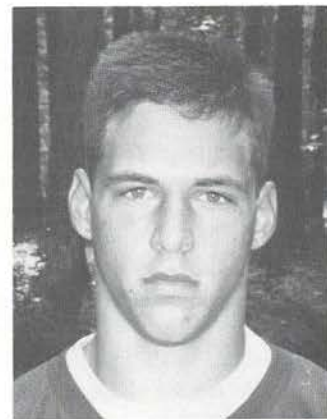
Kevin Jackson



Jason McDonald



Michael Moore



Clint Waggoner

year. A primary exception is lineman T.J. Dunnigan of Coffeeville. Although Dunnigan also visited Georgia, Georgia Tech and Mississippi State, his decision was expected to be between Bama and Auburn. Both teams were also involved with Stanley, Sigler, Bonner, Taylor, wide receiver Tavarus Moore of Jackson, tight end Quinton Reese of Birmingham, and running back/defensive back Michael Feagin of Greenville.

In addition to five or six defensive backs, it is believed Alabama wanted to land at least one halfback, one fullback, two wide receivers and four or five linemen. With 10 days to go until signing day only seven future Tiders were known. Besides the defensive backs, Bama had commitments from wide receiver Shamari Buchanan of Atlanta, offensive linemen Jason McDonald of Theodore and Michael Moore of Fayette, and defensive end/tight end Clint Waggoner of Fairburn, Georgia.

However, one Alabama coach said, "We've got a lot more committed than who have announced." That seems reasonable. Most believe Stanley and Sigler are committed. The Tide was thought to be clearly in the lead for (and perhaps have commitments from) wide receiver Michael Vaughn of Clarksdale, Mississippi, halfback Shaun

Alexander of Florence, Kentucky, and fullback Reggie Grimes (who is also listed as a defensive end prospect by many) of Nashville. Additionally, Bama was thought to have a reasonable chance at Bonner, Chambers, Dunnigan, Feagin, Tavarus Moore, halfback Jeremi Rudolph of Apopka, Florida, defensive linemen Ernie Badeaux of River Ridge, Louisiana, and Jason Ferguson of Itawamba (Mississippi) Junior College and offensive linemen Scott Bryan of Longwood, Florida, and Jim Niedrach of LaGrange, Georgia.

Going after the quality of player Alabama seeks means the competition is keen and Bama is not going to get every prospect it recruits. High school football players, as other college-bound prep students, choose their colleges for any of an infinite number of reasons. Typically, fans are more concerned about these "losses" (a misnomer since a player can't be lost until he's signed) than are coaches. Alabama's philosophy is that the Tide wants players who want to play for Bama. A Jay Barker, practically an unknown as a high school senior but a player who dreamed of being Alabama's quarterback, is preferred to the Blue Chip, Five-Star, All-America who doesn't have that same dream.

So while Tide coaches have

not been disappointed by these "losses," they probably have been surprised by a few. Most notable would be fullback Dawud Rasheed of Birmingham Shades Valley, who selected Duke. While revisionist reporting has turned this into an academic loss, Rasheed's selection was based on his perceived opportunity for playing time and

running the football. Rasheed hopes to be a physician and mentioned the Duke medical school, but there's no evidence that UAB has allowed The University of Alabama Medical School to slip from among the nation's most respected.

Tennessee Head Coach Phil Fulmer did a good job of heading Alabama off on a couple of

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top prospects in Tennessee. Bama made runs at prep All-America players Chad Clifton, an offensive lineman, and Chad Henderson, a defensive lineman, but both will be Vols.

Bama's continuing flirtation with Texas prospects appears to have once again been fruitless. Only fullback Dexter Ford of Dallas still appeared to be considering the Tide in the final two weeks.

## Those Who Made Official Visits To Alabama

Weekend of December 10

Kevin Jackson  
Clint Waggoner

Weekend of January 6

Ernie Badaux  
Fernando Bryant  
Chad Clifton  
T.J. Dunnigan  
Dexter Ford  
Thomas Hill  
Steven Kelley  
Antron Peebles  
Dawud Rasheed  
Steven Stanley  
Michael Vaughn

Weekend of January 13

Shaun Alexander  
Tavokious Bonner  
Scott Bryan  
Shamari Buchanan  
Earl Chambers  
Antwan Edwards  
Michael Feagin  
Jason Ferguson  
Chad Henderson  
Hunter Smith

Weekend of January 20

Cooper Carlisle  
Kevin Dukes  
Reggie Grimes  
Jason McDonald  
Michael Moore  
Tavarus Moore  
Jim Niedrach  
Quinton Reese  
Chris Samuels  
Kelvin Sigler

Possible January 23-29

Chris Akins  
Jeremi Rudolph  
Robert Tolbert

## Who's In

(Those who have made non-binding commitments to sign with Alabama)

Fernando Bryant, 6-0, 175, defensive back, Murfreesboro (Tennessee) Riverdale  
Shamari Buchanan, 6-2, 203, wide receiver, Atlanta Douglas  
Thomas Hill, 5-10, 170, defensive back, Meridian, Mississippi  
\*Kevin Jackson, 6-2, 200, defensive back, Dothan, Jones (Mississippi) Junior College  
Jason McDonald, 6-6, 285, offensive lineman, Thodore  
Michael Moore, 6-4, 280, offensive lineman, Fayette County  
Clint Waggoner, 6-7, 220, defensive end, Fairburn, Georgia, Landmark Christian  
\* Kevin Jackson signed in December and is enrolled at The University

## Who's Available

(Those who have not made commitments to sign with any school)

(Other schools listed are considered Alabama's primary competition)

Chris Akins, 6-0, 182, defensive back, Little Rock, Arkansas -- Arkansas  
Shaun Alexander, 6-1, 195, running back, Boone County, Kentucky -- Michigan  
Ernie Badaux, 6-5, 270, defensive lineman, River Ridge, Louisiana -- LSU, Tennessee  
Tavokious Bonner, 6-2, 180, defensive back, Lanett -- Miami  
Scott Bryan, 6-5, 265, offensive lineman, Longwood, Florida -- Florida  
Cooper Carlisle, 6-5, 265, offensive lineman, McComb, Mississippi -- Florida  
Earl Chambers, 6-2, 175, defensive back/quarterback, College Park, Georgia -- Georgia  
T.J. Dunnigan, 6-4, 270, lineman, Coffeeville -- Auburn  
Michael Feagin, 5-10, 185, running back/defensive back, Greenville -- Auburn  
Jason Ferguson, 6-5, 310, Itawamba (Mississippi) Junior College -- Ole Miss  
Dexter Ford, 5-11, 210, fullback, Dallas, Texas -- Arkansas  
Reggie Grimes, 6-4, 230, fullback/defensive end, Nashville, Tennessee -- Tennessee  
Dante Hickey, 6-1, 180, defensive back, Cleveland, Tennessee -- Tennessee  
Tavarus Moore, 6-3, 180, wide receiver, Jackson -- Auburn  
Jim Niedrach, 6-4, 265, offensive lineman, LaGrange, Georgia -- Georgia  
Jeremi Rudolph, 5-9, 180, running back, Apopka, Florida -- Miami, Florida State  
Chris Samuels, 6-6, 260, offensive lineman, Mobile Shaw -- Auburn, Southern Miss  
Deron Savage, 6-3, 280, defensive lineman, Lantana, Florida -- Florida  
Kelvin Sigler, 6-1, 175, defensive back, Mobile Shaw -- Auburn  
Steven Stanley, 6-4, 195, all-around athlete, Leighton Colbert County -- Auburn  
Michael Vaughn, 6-1, 185, Clarksdale, Mississippi -- LSU, Mississippi State

## Who's Out

(Those thought to have been recruited by Alabama but committed elsewhere)

(X means it is believed Alabama did not offer a scholarship)

X-Marcus Bullock, 6-0, 180, wide receiver, Pensacola, Florida -- Florida State  
Chad Clifton, 6-7, 275, offensive lineman, Martin, Tennessee -- Tennessee  
X-Kevin Coleman, 5-10, 175, wide receiver, Niceville, Florida -- unknown  
Brian Darden, 6-0, 190, running back, Vicksburg, Mississippi -- Tennessee  
X-Kevin Dukes, 6-0, 185, running back, River Ridge, Louisiana -- unknown  
X-Antwan Edwards, 6-2, 200, defensive back, Starkville, Mississippi -- Clemson  
Chad Henderson, 6-4, 245, defensive end, Fayetteville, Tennessee -- Tennessee  
X-Steven Kelley, 6-1, 195, running back, Enterprise -- Tennessee  
Billy Luckie, 6-2, 205, quarterback, Fort Walton Beach, Florida -- Clemson  
Antron Peebles, 6-3, 230, tight end, Murfreesboro, Tennessee -- Tennessee  
Dawud Rasheed, 5-11, 210, fullback, Birmingham Shades Valley -- Duke  
X-Quinton Reese, 6-4, 205, tight end/wide receiver, Birmingham -- Auburn  
X-Hunter Smith, 6-3, 195, wide receiver, Sherman, Texas -- unknown  
Marlon Taylor, 6-3, 190, defensive back, Smiths Station -- Auburn  
X-Fred White, 5-10, 180, defensive back, Griffin, Georgia -- Tennessee

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# Expansion Ahead For Bryant-Denny

by Kirk McNair

This could be first step in move of all Crimson Tide home games to Tuscaloosa by 1996

If expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium to almost 80,000 capacity is in the near future, can all Alabama football games being played in Tuscaloosa be very far behind?

The University is considering adding almost 10,000 seats to Bryant-Denny Stadium by building a deck in the South end zone. While the official line is that the project is still in the study stage, work is expected to begin no later than early summer, take no more than 20 months to complete, and there is speculation that beginning in 1997 all Alabama home games will be played in Tuscaloosa. Indeed, it's not out of the realm of engineering possibility that the addition could be completed in time for the 1996 season, when it's Bama's year to host Auburn.

Unlike the previous expansion from 1986 through 1988, construction will not affect use of the stadium. In the previous expansion the Crimson Tide was unable to play any games in Tuscaloosa in 1987.

Alabama currently plays three games per year at Birmingham's Legion Field, which has a capacity of 83,091. Although two of those games are ordinarily non-conference games, The University had also agreed to play the Auburn and Tennessee games in Birmingham when those were Alabama home games. Although The University and the City of Birmingham have a contract through 2001, that contract is not expected to be a stumbling block to all Alabama games being moved to Tuscaloosa.

While an expansion of the South end zone (the Bryant Drive end of the stadium) before expansion of the East side seems ridiculous, it is believed The



Dr. Roger Sayers

University elected to make its first expansion in the South end because it could be completed considerably quicker than the East side, which will involve relocation of several adjuncts of The University located on Colonial Drive. Expansion of the South end will also require some relocation—a fire station and The University's Hospitality House, which is used for special events and Tide Pride entertainment.

The South end zone expansion would add 9,576 seats, including 576 suite (sky box) seats and 1,700 lower club level covered seats. Estimated cost of the addition is \$14,755,000. Current capacity at Bryant-Denny Stadium is 70,123, so the addition would raise seating to 79,699, just 3,392 less than the capacity at Legion Field.

Although Alabama's athletics department is quite self-sufficient, and even

though the department has taken pride in having never used taxpayer money, there is a chance that the expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium will involve public money from the City of Tuscaloosa. The statement by University President Roger Sayers in announcing the study of expansion said, "We are now considering possible funding options and are particularly interested in gauging local support for the project, which obviously would have enormous positive economic impact on the community."

Another possibility for funding the project is a boost in the price of tickets. Sayers said, "Given that we have sold out Bryant-Denny's 70,123 seats for each game since the 1988 expansion, and demand for club-level Tide Pride seating exceeds supply, we have great confidence in the economic sense of an addition. This also makes sense in terms of meeting the needs of our alumni and supporters, who are keenly interested in more ticket availability for Bryant-Denny Stadium.

"An addition would also narrow the gap between the number of seats available at Legion Field and at Bryant-Denny, enabling us to sell more season tickets and bring parity to the ticket situation between the two locations. Again, the ultimate aim is to accommodate as many of our fans and supporters as possible."

The Sayers statement did not hint at the move of all Bama games to Tuscaloosa, merely noting that the addition of "10,000 seats for four games per year represents the equivalent of adding another game to our Bryant-Denny schedule." (Okay, Dr. Sayers is a biologist, not a mathematician.) Support from the West Alabama Chamber of





Bryant-Denny Stadium has undergone several changes in its history, the latest increase in seating capacity coming prior to the 1988 season. A current study could result in the next expansion beginning in the next few months, an addition to the South end zone that would raise capacity to 79,699.

University of Alabama Photo

Commerce is very strong, while support from the Tuscaloosa City Council is mixed unless expansion means all Tide games are moved to Tuscaloosa.

Once upon a time it was very important for Alabama to play football games in Birmingham. The larger stadium and easy access from throughout the state and television's preference for a metropolitan area were all factors in Birmingham's favor. Although parking and traffic in Tuscaloosa are horrendous on a game day (and would probably be worse with additional attendance), all other pro-Birmingham factors have been eliminated.

Additionally, the City of Birmingham has moved closer to the fledgling Alabama-Birmingham football program and Legion Field will also be home to a Canadian Football League team. Additionally, the stadium will be utilized for Olympic soccer in 1996.

While Birmingham prides itself on being "The Football Capital of the South," the football capital of the South is wherever the marquee team of the South-Alabama-is playing football.

Nevertheless, Dr. Sayers was emphatic in saying Birmingham's boost to Alabama-Birmingham football is not a factor in Tuscaloosa expansion. "At this point, it's pretty well independent of that issue," Sayers said. "I don't think UAB football has any impact on this at all. What we have said for years is that when we pay down our debt service we would begin to look at this."

He also said The University is not considering breaking its contract with Birmingham. "We've still got a number of years on that contract," he said. "We feel pretty obligated when it comes to contractual things. That doesn't have a lot of appeal to me."

**T**he Expansion Feasibility Study (which was completed in early November and announced in late December) was done by the same architectural firm, Heery International, Inc., that drew plans for the 1988 addition of an upper deck and press box on the West side.

The drawings and report show 7,300 bench seats, 16 suites with seating for 36 in each suite, and 1,700 club level seats.

The report also shows the possibility of adding 12,360 seats on the East side at an estimated cost of \$23,102,000, and it's reasonable to believe that will be the next expansion project. The preliminary East side expansion would include 9,860 bench seats, 30 suites with seating for 1,080, and 1,400 covered club-level seats.

A future expansion of the North end zone would likely mirror the South.



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# To Get Better, He Must Get Bigger

by Donald F. Staffo

Upcoming junior has made big plays as defensive end and on special teams

He's not your prototype defensive end, not by a long shot. In fact, he looks more like a basketball player than a big-time defensive football player. Darrell Blackburn, most recently Alabama's starting right defensive end and designated field goal blocker, is 6-4, 235 pounds, but he looks even lighter. Prior to the season he was listed as 6-3, 224, perhaps good for a guard or small forward in basketball, but hardly what a football coach ordinarily would look for in a defensive end.

Despite his size, or lack of it, in 1993 as a freshman Blackburn played in every game on special teams and in eight games on defense. This season he also played in every game. And in those two years he has made some big plays for the Crimson Tide.

An upcoming junior who was redshirted as a freshman in 1992, Blackburn stepped in at defensive end when Vann Bodden went down with a knee injury prior to the Auburn game. However, it wasn't Blackburn's first Bama start. Although not a member of the first defensive unit during his freshman season, Blackburn opened against North Carolina in the Gator Bowl. His start against Ohio State in the Citrus Bowl was his fifth opening assignment this year. Although Blackburn came to Alabama as an outside linebacker (and performed there through the early part of his freshman season), he was moved to end, which particularly suits his talents in the 4-3 defense.

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings spotted one Blackburn attribute early in Blackburn's career. He pegged Blackburn as an outstanding kick blocker. And it is likely that Blackburn's biggest play in his career has been one of his blocked kicks.

In the 1993 Mississippi State game in Tuscaloosa, the Tide held only a 20-17 lead late in the third quarter and State was lined up to try a tying field goal. Blackburn blocked it and Lemanski Hall picked it up and went 60 yards for a critical touchdown. "That was the biggest play of the game," Stallings said.

Blackburn said, "We had a middle block call on and our inside guys pushed the offensive line back pretty far. I blocked it with both hands and tried to push the ball to the ground. Lemanski was there and he scooped it up and ran it in. Making a play like that is exciting, and, since it helped win the game, it made me feel more a part of the team. But from a coaching standpoint, it was expected. That's what we practice and what we're supposed to do."

Blackburn also blocked a field goal attempt this year, against Southern Miss. Though he said it was not as exciting as the first one, he said it was a similar call. "Again," he said, sharing the credit, "the defensive guys got a lot of push on the offensive guys. I saw the ball come off the ground and I just jumped. I didn't fully block it. I tipped it."

"Whenever we have the middle block call, my job is to position my body where I think the ball is going to come over the offensive linemen, and then, hopefully, jump high enough to block it."

Mike Dubose, who is Blackburn's position coach, is also the coach in charge of the placekick block team. "We put four down linemen in front of him to push. Darrell is the jumper in the middle because he has a good vertical leap and a feel for the timing. That's a big part of our package. Darrell has done a nice job with that. He's made a lot of big plays for us."

One of those came on the first play in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game when he sacked Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel. "I was pumped up," Blackburn said. "Coming on the very first play, it almost felt a little bit too easy. For me, in a way, it set the tone of the game. But I had to keep calm because you have to stay calm against Florida. They throw the ball so

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/FEBRUARY '95



Darrell Blackburn first drew the attention of Alabama coaches as a kick block specialist, but now he's making big plays from his defensive end position, too.

Barry Fikes Photo



much that if you stay pumped up, fatigue will set in."

Officially for the season Blackburn had 12 primary tackles and 11 assists, three quarterback sacks, three tackles for losses, three passes broken up, 12 quarterback pressures and a caused fumble. Although bowl game statistics don't count in official marks, he added three tackles, a sack and two quarterback pressures in the Citrus Bowl.

**W**ith two years of eligibility remaining, Blackburn should make a few other big plays before he leaves The Capstone.

"He's got a chance to be an outstanding player, potentially a great player," Dubose said. "He's got the one thing you can't teach: speed. No question about it, his greatest strength is his ability to run...his speed (4.5 in the 40) and quickness.

"Beyond that, the thing that surprises most people is the way he uses his hands. He can leverage most blockers real well, and that allows him to play against 290-pounders when he's only 235."

But Dubose said Blackburn has to get bigger in order to fully tap his potential. "To be the type player he wants to be and to go to the next level, he's got to get bigger," the coach said. "His body can only take so much playing against 290-pounders. I thought by now he'd be in the 250-260 range, but he's not. He's got to put on some size."

Blackburn knows he's small for his position, and he's trying to gain weight. In addition to a weight-lifting program and eating a lot, he drinks a protein milkshake with his lunch and dinner.

"I really don't know why I can't gain weight," Blackburn said. "I guess it's because I'm so active in practice. I gain some weight during the off season, but it's tough to keep it on."

But Blackburn believes his speed makes up for his lack of weight. In the Tide's three-man rotation at right defensive end, Blackburn said he is smaller than Bodden (6-5, 267) and Kelvin Moore (6-3, 258), but faster than either of them. With Bodden a junior and Moore a sophomore the trio will again compete for the starting right defensive end in the spring.

"Really, the thing that I need to do the most right now is gain weight," Blackburn said. "That, and learn more about what an offensive player expects you to do in a certain situation, and then react to it."

Blackburn has put on some size since his senior year at Huntsville Butler High School when, at 6-2, 210, he was first team 6A all-

state. After leading the Rebels in tackles with 105, recording 16 sacks, causing five fumbles, recovering five fumbles and intercepting five passes, Blackburn picked the Tide over Auburn and Tennessee.

"When I came here I really liked the atmosphere," he said. "It felt like home away from home. I just felt like I could fit in with the people here."

Blackburn made his first impact with Bama in 1993 as a member of the kickoff coverage team. "I was really one of the wedge-busters," he said. "My job was to be in the middle of the field and beat their offensive blockers down and make the tackle." However, it is starting on defense that means the most to Blackburn.

"I feel more like a member of the team when I start," he said. "When I start I feel like I have to go out and make every play, although I know that's not going to happen. I just feel I have to play hard on every play and show the people that I can play on an-

other level. You can't make every play, but if you are trying to make every play you're more likely to make the ones you can make and should make.

"Since I've started at the end of both seasons, I feel I'll really be able to contribute to and help the team in the future.

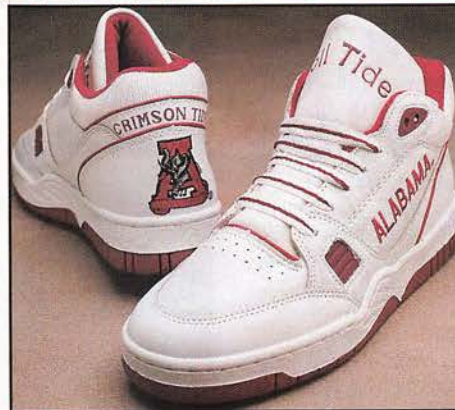
"My goal is to help the team in every way and to be a leader. I think I'm showing a little more leadership than I was when I first got here. I see myself developing into a leader—someone who leads by example, not some rah-rah holler guy.

"I think I'm a real easy-going person with a laid-back attitude. But I think I understand other people. I can see things without trying to point a finger at anyone."

Dubose recognizes this. "Away from the game, Darrell seems very quite," the coach said. "But he sort of has an inner-confidence about him."

Look for leadership from Blackburn, and look for it in the form of more big plays.

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# Best May Be Yet To Come

by John Barnes

Junior college transfer was pleased with first season at Alabama, but expects 1995 to be better

Although it was a great season, Matt Parker knows there is always room for improvement. A pleasant surprise for Tide fans and coaches, Parker has emerged as a quiet leader and big play artist for the Alabama defense.

Never being satisfied is one mark of a champion. Parker believes he has the right stuff; he just has to find it.

For the junior defensive tackle, learning Assistant Coach Mike Dubose's schemes and adjusting to the rigors of major college football were difficult, but not without its rewards.

"I feel pretty good about our year as a team and on a personal level," Parker said. "I feel pretty good about the way I played. It was a big change, no doubt about that."

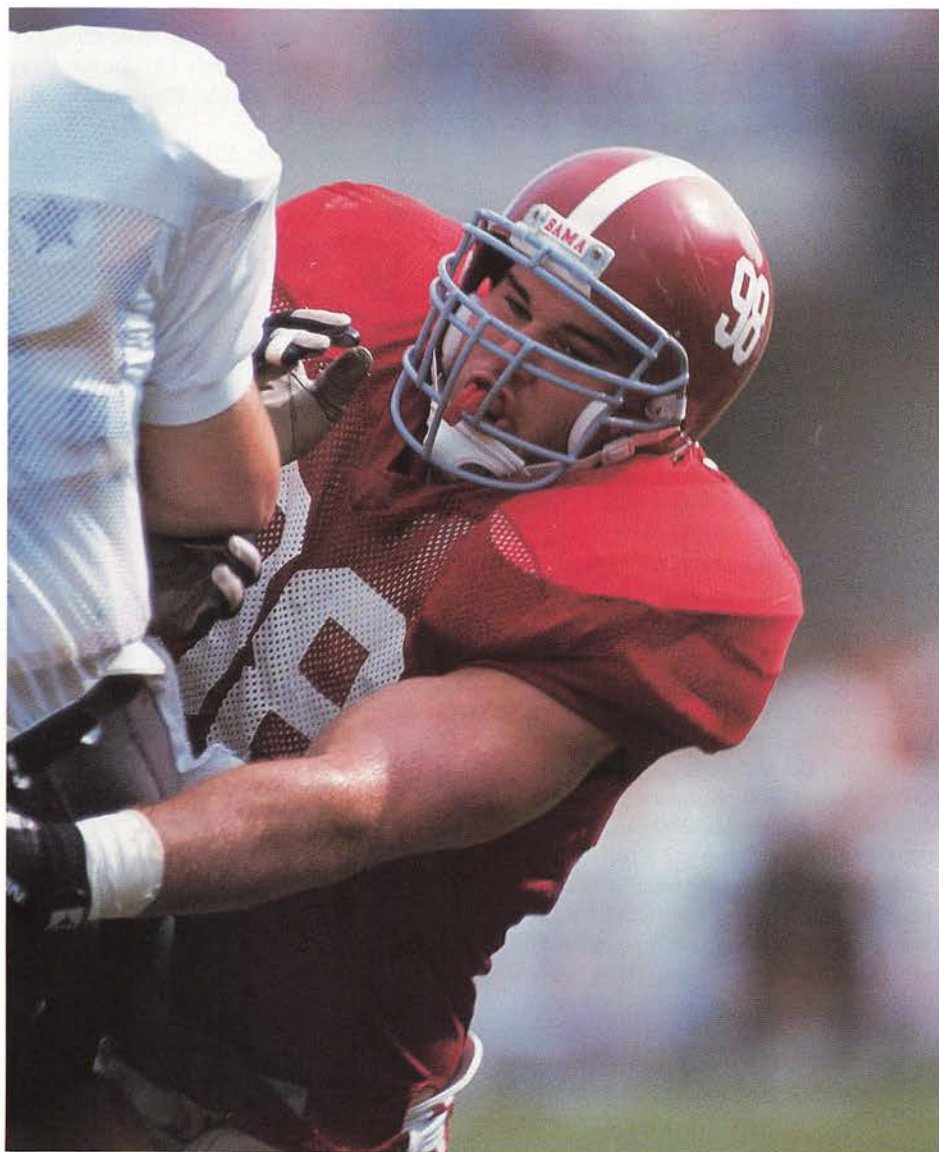
One of two junior college players signed by Alabama following last season, Parker began Bama's 1994 campaign in relative obscurity. That is until the Tide's October 1 battle with Georgia. Friend and fellow defensive lineman Shannon Brown went down in the first half with a separated shoulder. (Although Brown returned briefly in the second half, he was playing literally with one arm tied behind his back. He remained less than 100 per cent effective for several weeks.) Enter Matt Parker.

In a game widely regarded as the Tide's most dismal defensive performance of the season, Parker's play was one of the few bright spots. Putting Eric Zeier on the ground several times, Parker finally broke through with a nifty swim move and recorded Bama's only sack of the evening.

"Everyone hates to see injuries, especially when it's someone like Shannon, who's a friend of mine. But it gave me a chance to get in there and show what I could do. It was not a good game for us, but I think I came on and played pretty well the rest of the year."

For the 6-4, 280-pound Parker, 1994 was a season to remember. For only the third time in school history, Bama cracked the 11-win mark, finishing at an impressive 12-1. For Parker and the rest of the Tide overachievers, it was a season on the brink.

"When you look back at the games we



Although Matt Parker had an exceptional junior college career, when he came to Alabama he had new schemes and techniques to learn. He was a good football student and ended up as Bama's starting right tackle.

Barry Fikes Photo

could have lost and didn't, it's really amazing," said Parker. "We played well enough to win and that's what counts. We won all but one ball game and that was just by one point."

It was that one-point loss, a 24-23 heartbreaker to Florida that still haunts Parker. "It was just like so many other games we've been involved in this year," he said. "We've come to expect to win the close ones and we just didn't pull it off this time. If we had played poorly and lost, I really don't think it would hurt as much. But we played well enough to win. We held them to one touchdown in the second half and nobody has

done that this year. I'm sure we'll all think about it from time to time, but it'll be forgotten by next season."

It is the prospect for next season that excites Parker the most. With seven experienced players returning, Alabama's defensive front could be among the best in the country. Only Dameian Jeffries will not be back. With a year of experience under his belt, the Lawton, Oklahoma, native looks forward to some time off, but also to hitting the field again in the spring.

"We've had a good defensive line this year and we can't help but be better next year,"

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/FEBRUARY '95



said Parker. "If we stay healthy, our starting four will be outstanding and our back-ups could probably start for any other team in the conference."

Along with Parker, Shannon Brown returns at the other tackle position. Darrell Blackburn and Vann Bodden should start at ends. In addition, Kelvin Moore, Ozell Powell, Kendrick Burton and Eric Kerley all return and will battle for playing time. Elverett Brown has applied for a medical hardship redshirt season. If approved (a near certainty), Brown can only help the Tide situation. And redshirt freshman Chris Hood was a major force in practices this fall as a down lineman.

Still, the Tide has holes to fill on defense, most notably in the secondary, where Tommy Johnson, Willie Gaston and Sam Shade all depart.

"We may have a little more pressure on us next year," said Parker. "We are going to have to get some heat on the quarterback from our inside rush, something we didn't do very consistently last year. Both Shannon and I will be seniors and I think some of the younger guys will be looking to us for some leadership. I'm really not that worried about the secondary. Coach Oliver is the best in the business and they'll be able to do the job."

**R**ated the top junior college line prospect in 1993, Parker came to Alabama from Northeast Oklahoma A&M, where he played for Coach Mike Loyd. Originally signing with Oklahoma State, Parker enrolled in junior college because he felt the Cowboy program was "going nowhere."

Indeed, Oklahoma State and Alabama are programs headed in opposite directions. At one time in the not-so-distant past, OSU was one of the top programs in the Big Eight. With the emergence of Colorado as a national power, and with Nebraska coming off a national title, the balance of power in the Big Eight has shifted. That's just fine with Parker.

"I really don't have any regrets," said Parker. "You can drive yourself crazy if you think about that stuff, but I do wish I'd been here all along."

At Northeast, Parker was his team's top defensive player, recording 101 tackles and nine quarterback sacks (for 78 yards in losses), causing two fumbles, recovering two fumbles, and breaking up three passes while leading his team to a 10-1 record and a number four national ranking. For his exploits, he was named junior college All-America for the 1993 season.

**N**ow firmly established as the Tide's starting right tackle, Parker can look back on a season in which he truly came into his own. Although he played well in the Georgia game, the best of Matt Parker was yet to come.

In Alabama's next contest, a 14-6 yawner

against Southern Miss, Parker broke loose and played perhaps the best game by a Tide defender all season. Although Bama surrendered 371 yards in total offense to the Golden Eagles, Alabama held USM to six points while scoring 14, thanks in large part to Matt Parker.

In the first quarter, he thwarted a USM scoring threat by blocking a field goal attempt, one of three blocked kicks by the Tide on the afternoon. Early in the second quarter, end Dameian Jeffries sacked USM quarterback Heath Graham. The ball popped loose and Parker scooped it up and rumbled 16 yards for a touchdown. All this in addition to recording seven tackles, including a sack and a caused fumble.

"I would have to say that was my best game," said Parker. "You hear about people being 'in a zone.' I guess I was on that day. Most defensive linemen go through their whole careers without scoring a touchdown. It was a great feeling and I hope it happens again. I'll take as many as I can get."

Parker's heroics didn't stop there. He played well in almost every game in which he participated. Against Mississippi State, he recorded a season-high eight tackles and recovered a fumble.

The following week, Parker got a taste of what Alabama football is all about. The atmosphere surrounding Bama's 21-14 win over Auburn continues to amaze Parker. "Growing up in Oklahoma, I never really had a lot of exposure to the Auburn game," he said. "I knew it was a big game, but I had no idea it was anything like this. I grew up with Oklahoma-Nebraska and Oklahoma-Texas, but nothing I've ever seen compares to this."

Although he played only a few snaps against Florida, Parker feels that the Bama defense played about as well as it could. "Florida is a tough team to prepare for because they do so many things well. They run out of a lot of different formations with play-faking and that type of stuff. When they spot a weakness, they exploit it. I still think we had a good defensive game plan. I

thought we played extremely well in the second half. One or two plays decided that game, the kind of plays we usually make. On that day, they made the plays and we didn't. It's as simple as that."

Although it was a disappointing end to an outstanding season, Parker feels good about what he accomplished as a player and what Alabama accomplished as a team. At season's end, Parker had started eight games, recording 45 tackles, two sacks and five quarterback pressures. Add on to that four tackles, including a sack for a 10-yard loss against Ohio State in Bama's Citrus Bowl victory.

"For my first full season at this level, things worked out better than I thought they would," said Parker. "The schemes are a little more involved than what I've been used to, but Coach Dubose is real good at teaching. Hopefully by the end of spring practice, it'll be second nature for me."

Aside from improving the inside pass rush, Parker would like to see the Bama defense get a little more stingy against the run. Although the Tide finished strong, holding three of its last four opponents to less than 100 yards on the ground, several opponents had their way with the Alabama defense, most notably Mississippi State, who hit the Tide for 240 yards.

"Our defense against the run really developed against Auburn and Florida," said Parker. "But over the whole season, it could have been better. We gave up over 200 yards to Mississippi State. We managed to win the game, but that's not going to happen many times when you give up that many yards on the ground. Georgia killed us with the draw play. We'll have to work on all of that this spring."

There is little doubt Matt Parker will continue to develop. In one short season, he emerged as Alabama's leading tackler among defensive linemen. He has the size, the moves and the quickness to be among the SEC's best. By the time Bama's 1995 season opener rolls around, he may be the best of a very fine bunch.



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Niesa Johnson:

# She Wants To Be Best Of All Time

by Kirk McNair

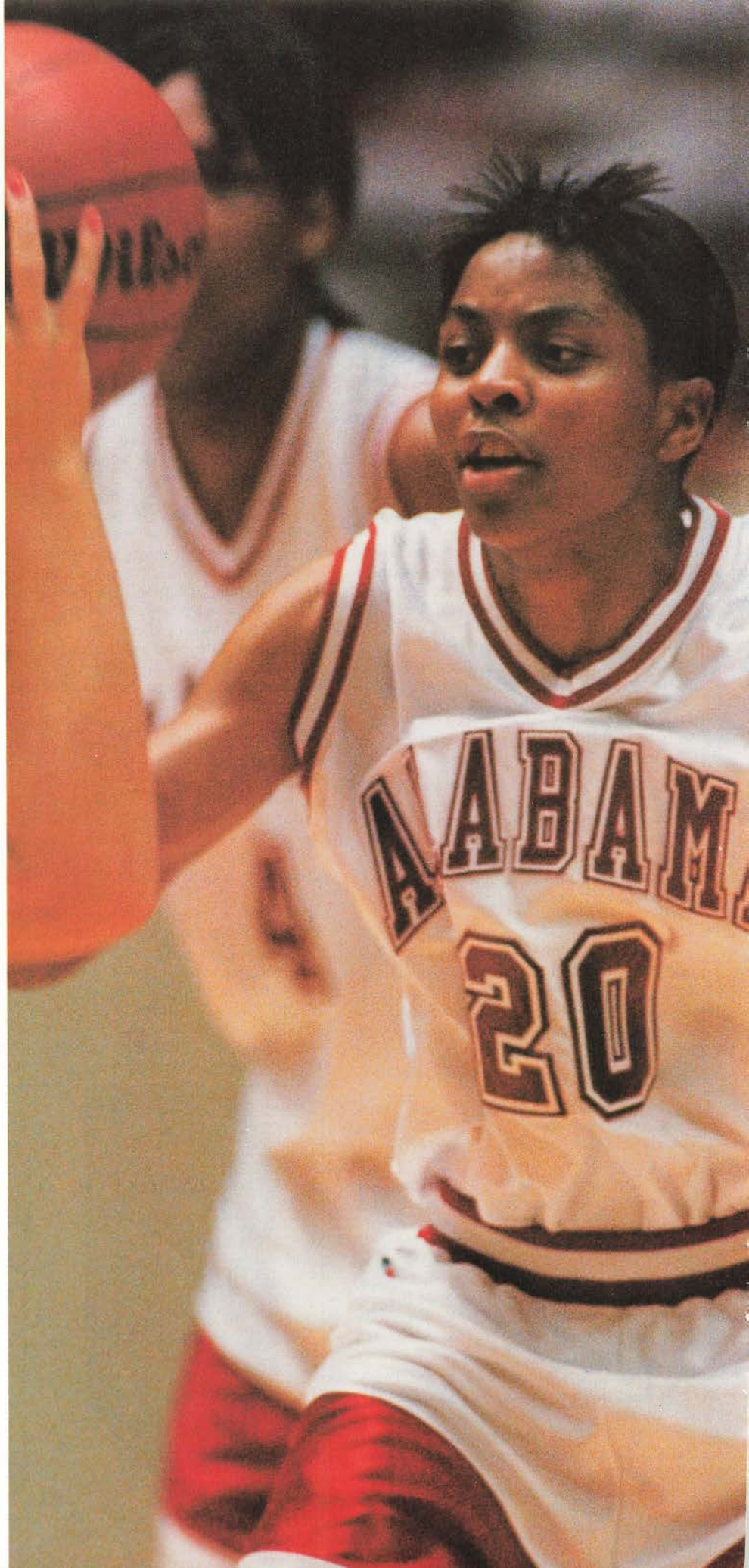
She may be most honored Alabama athlete in history

There is nothing like her, even though she is nothing like a dame. Well, maybe a little. She's not a tomboy, either, though she doesn't take offense and admits she grew up playing ball with the boys. Niesa Johnson combines the best of both, no doubt the influence of her parents. The only child ("not spoiled!" insists Niesa) of Carolyn and Chester Johnson grew up with opposite pulls. Her mother wanted Niesa's fashionable clothes kept neat and clean. Her father, who loves all sports, couldn't see the fuss over a few grass stains, the result of the all-out playground effort that now marks her style as the star of Alabama's nationally-prominent women's basketball team.

Niesa (it's pronounced NEE-sa, but she's just as frequently called NEE-SEE) may finish her career as the most-honored athlete in storied Crimson Tide history. Last year the Alabama Sports Writers Association voted her Alabama's Amateur Athlete of the Year. Not women's athlete. Athlete. She was a consensus All-America as a junior in 1994 (the first in Bama women's basketball history) and this year is the leading candidate to be the Naismith National Player of the Year. In 1992 she was the National Freshman of the Year.

She's been all-tournament in all but one tournament Alabama has played in during her nearly four years, and she has been Most Valuable (or Outstanding) Player in a handful of them, including three this season. She holds several Alabama records and is closing in on others (including all-time leading scorer). She's a two-time

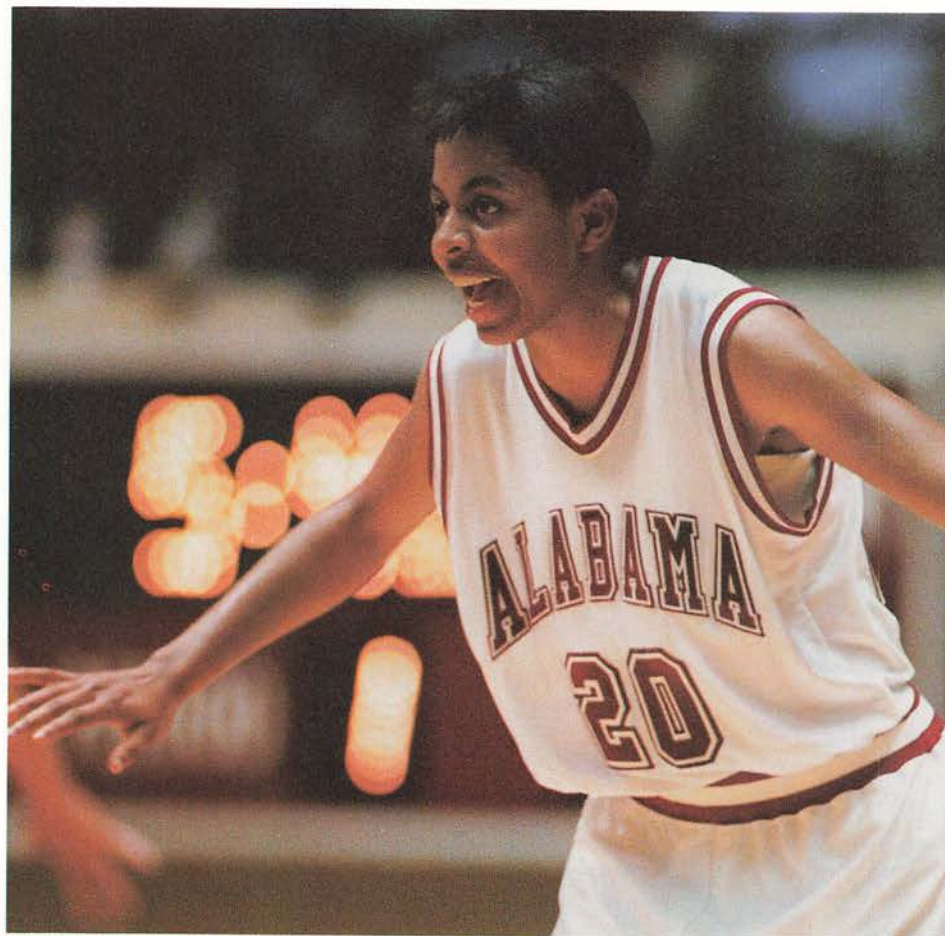
Women's basketball isn't men's basketball played by women. It's a different game. But Tide senior Niesa Johnson plays the game like a man.  
Barry Fikes Photo











Niesa Johnson believes that much of her success is due her high school coach, because Niesa—the National Player of the Year following her senior season at Clinton High School—learned the fundamentals before getting to Bama.

Barry Fikes Photo

unanimous All-Southeastern Conference selection and her entire list of honors and records would fill a page.

Her studies in the School of Special Education are in Orthopedic Handicapped, working with pre-school handicapped children. Last year Niesa earned Academic All-SEC. "That's very important to me," she said. "But I think the person who was most excited was my Mom. She told everybody in Clinton I made the Academic All-SEC team. It was bigger to her than me making All-America."

Clinton is Clinton, Mississippi, just outside of Jackson, and a long way from Chicago, where Niesa was born. Her family moved to Clinton when she was nine. Although she had played ball with her cousins in Chicago, her athletics career blossomed in Mississippi. Her father was a tennis instructor, and that seemed the likely game of choice for

Niesa. "But he's very strict," Niesa said, "so I decided to change sports. I picked basketball." She started playing at the YMCA, again playing primarily with boys.

In the seventh grade in junior high school she began playing girls basketball. At the end of her eighth grade season the high school team still had seven games to play. The Clinton coach, Gary Miller, promoted Niesa to the high school team for those seven games, and she was a fixture in Clinton's lineup the next four years. That's where the honors began, and that's also where a dream began.

"That's when I realized that what I wanted to do was play basketball," she said. "I wanted to get a college scholarship." And (talk about setting goals) she wanted to be the best. Not just the best in the nation or the best ever at Alabama. "I think you're limiting yourself if those are the things you are aiming for," she said. "If you think you could be the best who has ever played the game, I think that's how

far you should go. And that's how I want to be known: the best who ever played the game."

Niesa had reason to believe she can be the best ever. As a prep senior she was the Gatorade Athlete of the Year in Mississippi (boys and girls) and the Converse National Player of the Year. She set every scoring record in the state, including scoring 62 points in one game.

Johnson still credits Miller (now the coach at Clinton rival Madison Central) with developing her fundamental skills so she could perform as she does for Tide Coach Rick Moody.

Niesa said she has gained from a number of coaches. In addition to Miller, she has been involved with some of the top coaches in the nation through her participation on national teams. She was a two-time member of the United States Junior National Team and last year made the USA Women's Select Team.

"Different coaches teach you a different game," she said. She worked under Chris Weller of Maryland, who stresses shooting; Jim Foster of Vanderbilt, who taught her mental toughness; and Tara Van Devere of Stanford, who is expected to be the 1996 United States Olympics Team coach.

"Coach Moody, on the other hand, stresses the all-around person," she said. "He wants you to learn how to shoot the ball the correct way, play good defense, come off the screen, everything. He covers all the main points. He's a player's coach."

Women's basketball is not men's basketball played by women. The games are similar, but different. However, 5-9 Niesa Johnson comes close to playing the game like a man—full-speed dribbling, crisp passing, long-range shooting, and always going as hard as she can. And even though she's a guard, she's one of Alabama's leading rebounders. Alabama plays primarily with a three-guard lineup, and Niesa is expected to join the inside players as a rebounder. "Sometimes I don't go the boards as hard as I should, and Coach gets on me," she said.

"They are different sports," Niesa said. "I never liked to watch women's basketball before I came here. Louisiana Tech started making it exciting and now it has as much excitement as the men's game. I appreciate it a lot more now."



She particularly likes watching the highly-ranked women's team. And she watches teams to prepare to play them.

Her international experience has put Niesa on a first-name basis with the nation's top players and coaches. Primarily because of that there is a Niesa Johnson Network. She calls and receives calls from players and coaches around the nation. Although she tries mostly to receive calls ("If I'm going to talk to a coach, I call, say 'Call me back,' then hang up," she said), from time-to-time Mom has to rush some cash to Niesa to take care of a telephone bill.

That network came in handy prior to last year's NCAA Tournament game against Oregon State. There was no time for coaches to exchange game videotapes, so Niesa got on the telephone to her pal, Rachel Hemmer, at Stanford. Hemmer provided the scouting report.

Indeed, Johnson said, other than her teammates, she probably has more friends who are athletes at other schools than at Alabama. "I'm not really a big sports fan,"

she said. She goes to an occasional Alabama football game, but her favorite football team is the Pittsburgh Steelers. She went to Alabama men's games when James Robinson (a high school chum, as well as college friend) was playing for the Tide. Although she doesn't really like baseball, she roots for her hometown Cubs. "And when the football playoffs in Mississippi start, I'll talk with guys like Vann Bodden, who's from Moss Point, not too far from Clinton," she said.

**N**iesa is firmly focused on Alabama's season now. Last year she led the Tide to the Final Four. This year she wants the national championship, and she believes that is a realistic goal.

And she doesn't want to re-hash last year's Final Four, when Alabama was eliminated by Louisiana Tech, 69-66. Bama had beaten Tech, 99-77, earlier in the year with Johnson scoring 26 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. But at halftime of that game, Johnson cut her

hand on the sink in the dressing room. It had to be stitched up and she missed several minutes of the second half. And, naturally, her shooting, passing and dribbling were affected by the injury.

There will almost certainly be basketball after college for Niesa Johnson. "I hope so," she said. "I've been looking forward to playing pro basketball for a long time. If all goes well, I hope to play in Europe next year. I'd like to be in Italy, France or Spain. It's an eight-month season and the pay can be anywhere from \$20,000 to \$200,000, plus a car and an apartment."

And this spring Niesa hopes to get an envelope from the United States Olympic Committee. In the past, those who wanted to play on the Women's Olympic Team applied for the opportunity to try out. Now the try-out is by invitation only.

Niesa Johnson will get an invitation and barring the unforeseen she will represent the United States in the '96 Olympics. And those watching her in Atlanta will see, perhaps, the best who ever played the game.

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# Looking Ahead By Looking Back

by Donna Fromme

Both men and women  
have very young teams

While some coaches go to elaborate lengths to motivate their athletes, Alabama Women's Golf Coach Betty Palmer's technique will be simple. She will have them look back.

The Bama women can believe in themselves because of what they accomplished in 1994, a second place finish in the Southeastern Conference that surprised everyone but themselves.

To repeat that success is a challenge. Alabama lost four seniors to graduation and a key golfer who would have been a senior

this season transferred. But the Tide returns four golfers from that '94 team that advanced to the NCAA East Regional.

"On paper, this team can do well," said Palmer, who has been the Tide's coach for the past seven seasons. "Just because they're young doesn't mean they are just starting out in the game. They are very talented."

But one first notices the youth. The 1995 Crimson Tide includes three freshmen, three sophomores and one junior.

"Actually, it ought to be fun," Palmer said. "If I was on the team, I'd think it was great because we are going to go out and get the experience over the course of this year. If we finish in the top five in the conference, I think most people would consider that to be a great accomplishment."

Palmer knows it will be difficult to build upon last year's success without five of the members of that 1994 team. But, she said, "I know anything can happen. The first year I

was here, we won three tournaments. It was absolutely unbelievable. That just doesn't happen for first-year coaches, but our team proved to be an exception."

The returning "elder statesman" is junior Meg Lindsey, who played in five tournaments last season. In tournaments last spring, Lindsey averaged 78. Her play in the fall included a round at the prestigious Carolyn Cudone Intercollegiate where she shot 73.

The other "veteran" is Johanna Swård, a sophomore who played in four tournaments as a freshman. She matched that experience in the fall, appearing in all four events in which Bama participated and emerging as Alabama's low stroke leaders (average: 80.36).

Two sophomores were redshirts last season. One of those, Julie Pelchar, played in four fall events. The other, Stacey Buersmeyer, played in two. They are coupled with freshmen Christy Miller, Kelley



Johanna Swård (left) and Greg Letson are among the most experienced Crimson Tide golfers on teams that are short on inexperience for 1995.

Barry Fikes Photo



Milligan and Melinda Milner, a sophomore academically whose brother Jason was once a member of the Crimson Tide football team.

"Because of the talent, we're going to be better than expected," Palmer said. "But this spring I'm letting them know that we're just going out there to play and do the best they can. But I want them to understand our whole focus is to gain experience. And as these kids get older, it's going to get better."

The Bama players have had their clubs idle from tournaments since November. The return to action begins with the Florida Lady Gator Invitational in Gainesville March 3-5.

"We're going to work very hard to get ready for that first tournament," Palmer said. "We knew going in that our youth and inexperience would make things a little more challenging for us, and we hope the challenges and the experience gained last fall will make for a better spring. This is a talented bunch. I know that. And now we need to work hard so that our talent results in improvement."

If ever there was an omen that men's golf at The Capstone was in store for big happenings, this would be the year. In August, the month students and Alabama golfers returned to The Capstone, two Alabama golf alums had their dreams come true when first Dicky Pride and then Steve Lowery won their first PGA Tour events. The wins have widened the spotlight on the talent at Alabama, already a nationally-respected program. And Tide Men's Coach Dick Spybey, a man who is always thinking ahead, knows the time is ripe for his program to take advantage.

"I am currently involved in developing a game plan for the next 10 years for this program," said Spybey, who is in his seventh year as men's head coach and 11th overall at Alabama. (Spybey was head women's coach before taking over the men's program.) "This group must understand its obligation to help us into the next 10 years. Our recent success was built around goal-setters like Dicky Pride and David Kirkpatrick, who were not big junior golf names, but who had that will to succeed and who set their goals high. And this group can learn from watching their recent success on their tours, as well as build on the successes of our past players like Steve Lowery and, of course, (former U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur Champions) Jerry Pate."

Bama must also look back to last fall if the Tide is to achieve success in 1995. After opening the fall season with a fourth place

finish at the Jack Nicklaus Collegiate, the Tide, also a team thick with underclassmen, hit a string of a couple of tournaments where it found itself around the bottom of the pack. The Tide was able to lift itself back to the middle of the pack in the final fall event.

"In the fall, there was inconsistency," Spybey, the 1992 National Coach of the Year, said. "We saw some poor play at times, and that was to be expected. We knew we would be very young and inexperienced. And we knew that our most experienced player, Greg Letson, would be continuing his rehabilitation (from a devastating 1993 automobile accident). So we had peaks and valleys, but we have to learn from that. I feel positive that our players are not content with their overall fall performance and did learn a lot about what it takes to excel. This program has come a long way in the past five years. And this group realizes it is its obligation to continue our upward swing."

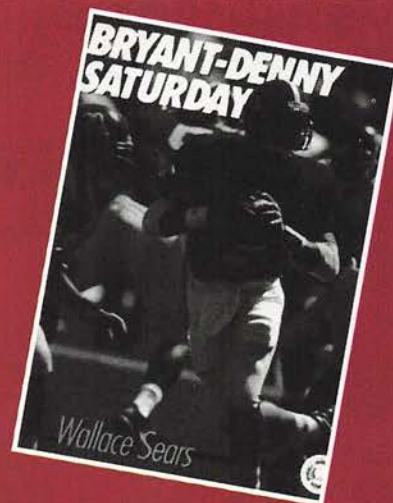
The '95 squad includes four freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors and two seniors. Letson had very limited playing time last year, but Chip Deason and Mayson Petty were among Bama's playing five. Last year Bama had four top five finishes, including winning the season-opener, and advanced to the NCAA East Regional for the fourth straight year. And Patrick Vadden, redshirted last season, was a key figure in 1993.

Vadden was the Tide's leading scorer in the fall, averaging 75.47 in five tournaments and turning in a low round, a 69. He finished sixth individually in one tournament. Right on his heels were freshman Brian Wright (75.58) and sophomore Deason (75.6). Although Petty averaged 77.27, he had the Tide's low fall round, a 68 in the final event. Instances such as that with other Tiders during the fall excite Spybey for the spring.

"Our goal this spring is to move from spectator status to contributor status one player at a time," Spybey said. "I expect each player to improve. The pace for each player will be different, but each individual must increase his level of intensity so that they are no longer merely playing, but contributing at a top 25 level."

Spybey believes the break between the fall schedule and the spring schedule was beneficial to Bama. "Perhaps because of our inexperience, our players pushed themselves very hard in the fall," he said. "I believe that we reached the burnout stage. The break came at a great time to refresh and re-energize all of us."

Bama opens spring play in the Gator Invitational in Gainesville February 18-19.



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# Can Bama Be Surprise Of SEC?

by John Barnes

New Coach Jim Wells is in perfect place because he loves a challenge

With the 1994 season nothing more than a distant memory, the Alabama baseball team is starting from scratch. The Tide not only welcomes a new head coach, but a new philosophy and sense of direction as well.

Jim Wells believes he has the formula to right the sinking Bama baseball ship. Successful at every stop in his career, Wells and his assistants are taking a different approach, one of discipline and positive thinking, to the 1995 season.

Finishing 21-35 last year, including a dis-

mal 4-22 in Southeastern Conference play, Wells and the Tide are in an unenviable position. Making matters worse, Bama plays in the toughest division of the toughest baseball conference in America.

"We've really got our work cut out for us," said Wells. "You look at the record last year and also at the fact that the SEC West had two teams in the College World Series (Auburn and LSU), and we're in a pretty tough position. It's a big challenge and we'll find out in a hurry if we're up to it."

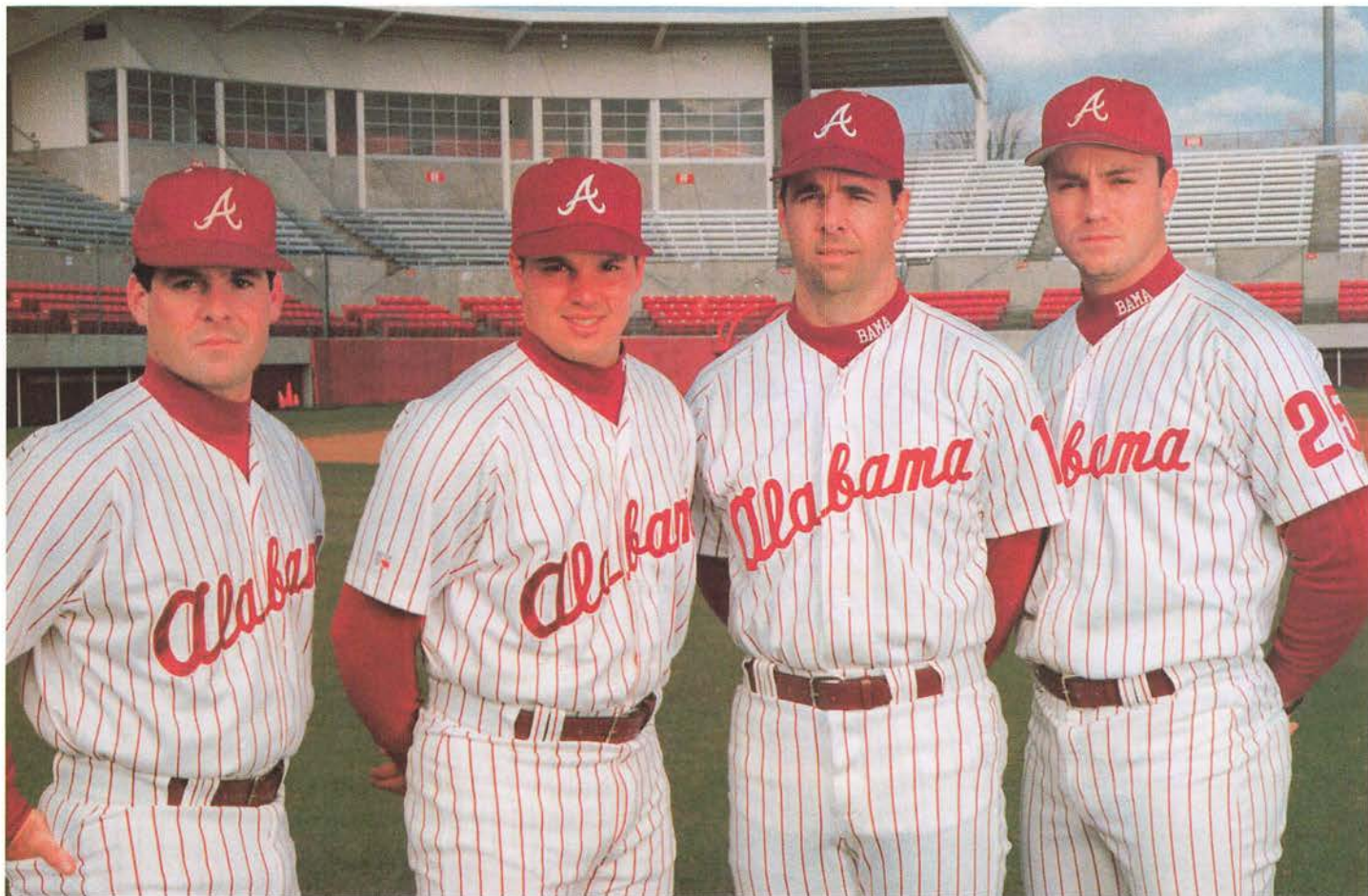
Alabama's situation is nothing new to Wells. Named head coach at Louisiana's Northwestern State in 1990, Wells took over a program that had suffered through 13 consecutive losing seasons. In his first year, he posted a 38-13 record en route to a 192-89 worksheet in five seasons at NSU.

Wells believes in his system and that it can work at any level. Alabama has a solid tradition, name recognition and access to the na-

tion's top prep players, a luxury Wells did not enjoy at NSU. On the other hand, he must recruit and play against big-time schools like LSU and Mississippi State, not to mention established in-state programs at Auburn and South Alabama.

Wells professes to love a challenge. He's got one in Tuscaloosa.

"Things are never as bad as they seem," said Wells. "On the surface, it looks like we will struggle. But I think we've got a pretty good nucleus to build on. Fall practice came off as well as could be expected. We spent most of our time trying to put in our system and get the kids in shape through conditioning. We introduced a lot of new things and most of them absorbed it pretty well. We just need some more repetition and we'll get that in practice. The bad thing is, we had a hundred guys out at the beginning of the fall and you just can't get very much accomplished when you have to look at that many.



Alabama's new baseball coaching staff will usher in the 1995 season February 18. The new staff members are (left to right) Todd Butler, Mitch Gaspard, Head Coach Jim Wells, and Kevin Berry.

Barry Fikes Photo



Overall, though, I was pretty pleased."

With practice starting January 22, the Tide has less than one month to prepare for its season opener against Middle Tennessee State on February 18. Although Bama returns some talented veterans, look for a number of new faces this season, especially on the pitching staff.

**P**itching is the chief concern for any coach and Wells is no exception. The Tide staff will feature some good arms, but very little experience. The key to success on the mound is offensive support, an element severely lacking from the Tide pro-

gram of late. Bama's lack of run production in 1994, especially in late-inning situations, overshadowed what could have been some masterful performances on the mound.

Alabama returns only one proven starter in sophomore right-hander Chris Eilers. With an adequate arm and good control, Eilers pitched well last year, posting a 2-5 record with a 4.97 earned run average. In Eilers' 14 starts in 1994, the Tide could manage only 17 total runs in support of his effort. Although not overpowering, Eilers gets good movement on his fast ball and forces opposing hitters to do what pitchers love best: hit ground balls. He's the favorite

to be the ace of the Tide staff and the team's top conference pitcher.

Aside from Eilers, Bama returns three other experienced pitchers from last year's squad.

Junior right-hander Joel Colgrove emerged from fall practice as Bama's most improved pitcher. Inconsistent last year, he posted a 5.33 ERA with no decisions. Possessing the strongest arm on the team, Colgrove is the leading candidate to fill the number two spot in the Tide rotation.

Junior righty John Collins (5-3, 4.81 ERA) is a two-year letterman with a strong arm but has shown very little consistency throughout his career. Collins had a less-than-spectacular fall. He has talent, but needs to develop some confidence to make a contribution.

Other returners include senior right-handers Rick Detoto and Neal Lamb. Sophomore righty Jason Williams could see some innings.

The true talent on the Tide staff may very well come from the new guys. In a limited amount of time, and with few available scholarships, Wells signed some solid junior college talent.

Transfer Craig Ainsworth from Saddleback Junior College may be the best of the bunch. He impressed Wells in the fall and is likely to emerge as the Tide's number three man.

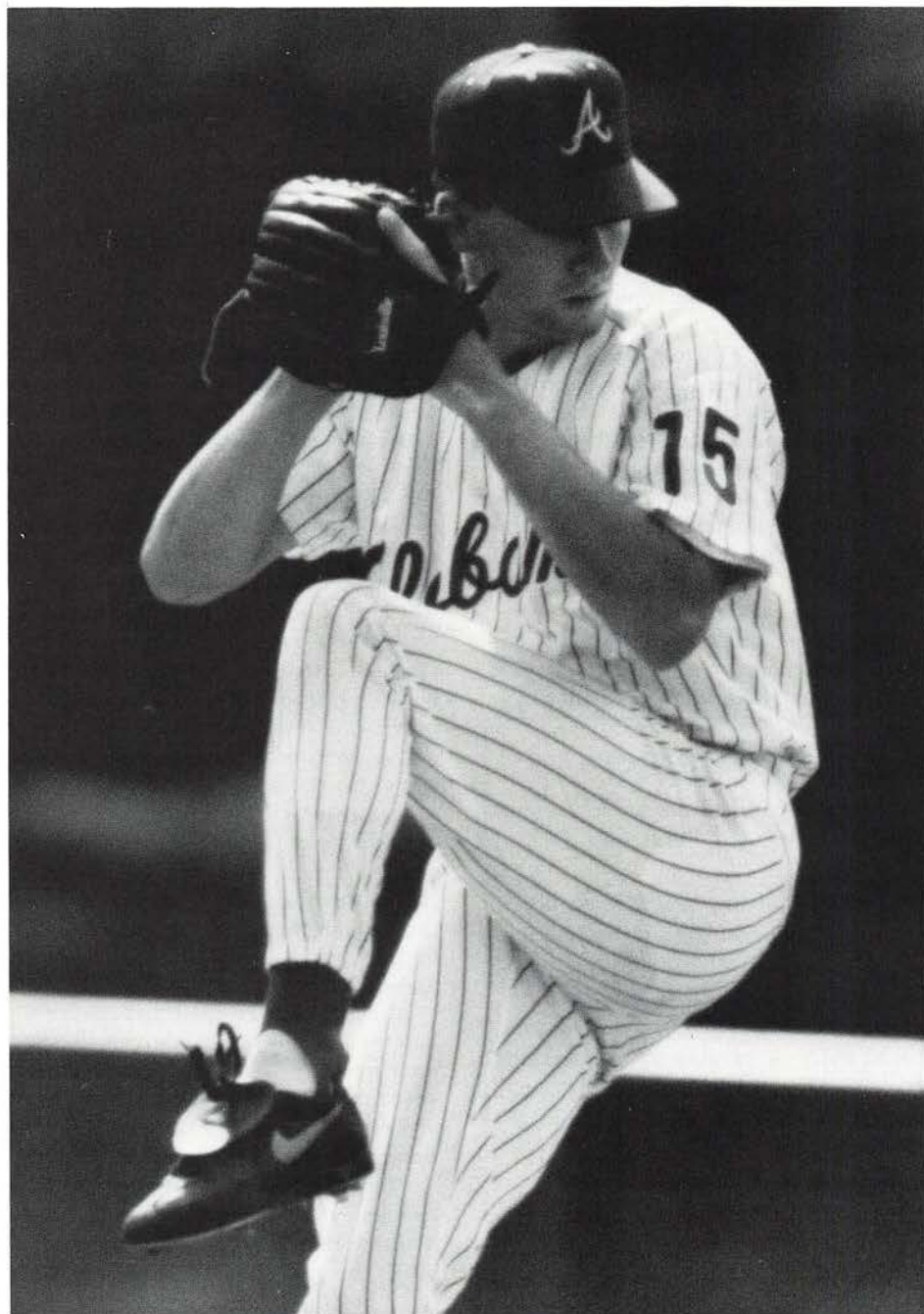
Lefty transfer Will Schleuss has a decent arm and good control. Bama needs left-handed pitching and Schleuss should fill the void and could easily make the conference rotation.

The remainder of the Bama staff includes junior transfers Buster Duman, Chris Moller and Tad Allen. All will see action, most likely against non-conference competition. True freshman Todd Turner could be pressed into action, but will likely be redshirted.

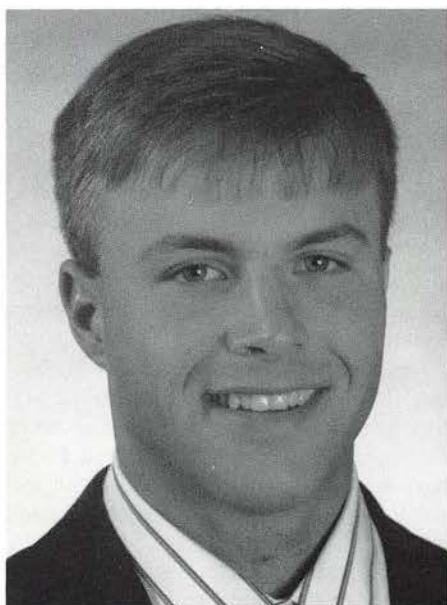
Alabama is in desperate need of a late-inning stopper. As of now, there is no clear-cut favorite to fill the void. Tide quarterback and 1994 part-time pitcher Freddie Kitchens would be the ideal candidate, but it is not likely he will participate in baseball this spring.

**A**s for position players, Alabama returns some solid up-the-middle defense. Leading the way is junior shortstop Brett Taft. Entering his third season as the starter, Taft (.246 average, 4 home runs, 26 runs batted in) is the Tide's defen-

Chris Eilers, a sophomore right-handed pitcher, is expected to be Alabama's top pitcher in 1995.  
University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley







Brett Taft

sive mainstay. Taft will have to stay healthy, as there is no real backup at the position.

At first base, senior Jason Jordan (.324, 11 HR, 34 RBI) is the clear starter. Finishing second last year in both home runs and RBIs, Jordan is a good glove man and should hit clean-up, giving the Tide some much-needed power at the plate. Sophomore Scott Weil will serve at backup and is a candidate to fill in at designated hitter.

At second, sophomore Joe Caruso (.303, 3 HR, 16 RBI) is the returning starter and appears to be the front-runner. Junior transfers Joe Campus and Eric Goldis will provide backup help.

The situation at third is a little more muddled. Sophomore transfer Nate Duncan may have a slight edge, but don't count out returning starter Kevin Nichols (.287, 13 HR, 43 RBI). He led the team in home runs and RBIs last year and has legitimate power. Duncan is the better defensive player of the two. If Duncan starts, Nichols would probably be the designated hitter.

The most solid position on the team is catcher. Returning starter Alan Hill (.271, 2 HR, 12 RBI) is one of the SEC's top defensive catchers. He can throw out runners consistently and has improved as a hitter. Junior transfer Dax Norris had an excellent fall and is the better hitter of the two. Either could start and will most likely platoon at the position.

In the outfield, depth is not a problem, but consistency and speed could be.

Left field could be the most unsettled position on the team. Redshirt freshman Drew Bounds had a good fall and will see



Alan Hill

some playing time. Junior transfer Tad Peterson is an all-around athlete with good speed and is a switch hitter. Peterson's speed and ability at the plate could give him a slight edge.

Senior Anthony Dubose (.336, 3 HR, 17 RBI) is the returning starter in center field and is the fastest player on the team. Wells will need his speed not only in the field but, more importantly, on the bases.

In right field, junior transfer Rusty Loflin appears to be the front-runner, but true freshman Dustan Mohr is not far behind. Both showed promise in the fall at times, but were also inconsistent.

Two players who could fill in at any outfield position are juniors Todd Nodine and Jerry Brandon. Nodine is a solid utility man



Jason Jordan

and plays smart, fundamental baseball. Brandon has good speed, but was hurt for most of the fall.

**W**ells is realistic about his team's chances in 1995. "We've got the potential to be a good club," he said. "It all starts with an attitude. These kids have got to believe they can win every time they step on the field. We've got to get the best out of what we've got. Some of these kids are going to have to have career years. Kids who have never done it before will have to step up and make the play, whether it's in the field or at the plate. We just don't have a lot of proven talent. Are we capable of having a good team? Yes we are, but it's going to take a maximum effort out of everyone, myself included."

If Alabama is to improve, it must do one thing: hit the ball. In baseball, runs are scored in essentially two ways. One is through power, clearing the bases with one swing of the bat. The other is by manufacturing runs...bunting, stealing, the hit and run, anything to keep the base-runners moving. Increased run production will be vital to Alabama's success in 1995.

If there is one element that could truly hurt the Tide this year, it is an overall lack of team speed. As has been the case in recent years, the pitching should be solid. Bama must score runs and give their pitchers a chance to make it past the seventh inning.

If the players can maintain a positive attitude and allow themselves to be coached, Alabama may just surprise a great many people this year.

## Grand Slammers

Alabama baseball has an active support group, the Alabama Grand Slammers.

Members of the group have numerous functions throughout the year and follow the Crimson Tide both at home games and selected road games.

Membership is \$25 per year. To join, send a check payable to the Alabama Grand Slammers (along with your name, address and telephone number) to P.O. Box 1159, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403.

If you want further information you may write, or call Scott Cork in Tuscaloosa at (205) 333-9943.



# 1995 Alabama Baseball Roster

## PITCHERS

No.	Name	B-T	Hgt.	Wgt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown
19	Craig Ainsworth	R-R	6-3	184	Jr.	JC	Mission Viejo, Calif.
18	Tad Allen	L-L	5-9	179	Jr.	JC	Nevada, Mo.
36	Joel Colgrove	R-R	6-4	220	Jr.	2L	Boligee
37	John Collins	R-R	6-5	220	Jr.	2L	Alabaster
16	Rick Detoto	R-R	5-10	187	Sr.	1L	Miami, Fla.
31	Buster Duman	L-R	6-0	173	Jr.	JC	Miami, Fla.
15	Chris Eilers	R-R	6-0	180	So.	1L	Huntsville
26	Neal Lamb	R-R	6-2	208	Sr.	Sq	Tuscaloosa
38	Jeremy Maddera	L-L	6-4	215	So.	Tr	Boulder, Colo.
10	Chris Moller	R-R	6-3	262	Jr.	JC	Huntsville
28	Will Schluess	L-L	6-1	186	Jr.	JC	Martinsburg, Va.
14	Todd Turner	R-R	6-3	203	Fr.	HS	Tuscaloosa
33	Brandon Watson	R-R	5-8	175	Jr.	JC	Decatur
23	Jason Williams	R-R	6-0	218	So.	Sq	Tuscaloosa
3	Tim Young	L-L	5-9	153	Jr.	JC	Bristol, Fla.

## CATCHERS

24	Neill Bartling	R-R	5-11	179	Fr.	HS	Jackson, Miss.
29	Alan Hill	R-R	6-2	218	Sr.	3L	Mobile
34	Dax Norris	R-R	5-10	180	Jr.	JC	LaGrange, Ga.

## INFIELDERS

4	Joe Campus	R-R	5-9	163	Jr.	JC	Pensacola, Fla.
5	Joe Caruso	R-R	5-8	185	So.	1L	Lock Haven, Pa.
7	Nate Duncan	R-R	6-1	176	So.	Tr.	Shreveport, La.
20	Eric Goldis	S-R	5-10	172	Jr.	JC	Sarasota, Fla.
12	Jason Jordan	R-R	6-3	209	Sr.	1L	Montgomery
1	Brett Taft	R-R	5-7	166	Jr.	2L	Hueytown
35	Scot Weil	L-R	6-1	252	So.	1L	Hollywood, Fla.

## OUTFIELDERS

6	Drew Bounds	R-R	6-0	193	Fr.	RS	West Point, Miss.
2	Anthony Dubose	R-R	5-11	178	Sr.	1L	Panama City, Fla.
9	Rusty Loflin	R-R	6-0	224	Jr.	JC	Porterville, Calif.
32	Dustan Mohr	R-R	6-0	190	Fr.	HS	Hattiesburg, Miss.
11	Todd Nodine	R-L	5-11	160	Jr.	2L	Tuscaloosa
27	Tad Peterson	S-R	5-10	177	Jr.	Tr	Orem, Utah

Head Coach: Jim Wells

Assistant Coaches: Mitch Gaspard, Todd Butler and Kevin Berry

## 1995 Alabama Numerical Baseball Roster

1 Brett Taft, SS	10 Chris Moller, RHP	20 Eric Goldis, 2B/SS	31 Buster Duman, LHP
2 Anthony Dubose, OF	11 Todd Nodie, OF	22 Todd Butler, Coach	32 Dustan Mohr, OF
3 Tim Young, LHP	12 Jason Jordan, 1B	23 Jason Williams, RHP	33 Brandon Watson, RHP
4 Joe Campus, 2B/SS	14 Todd Turner, RHP	24 Neill Bartling, C	34 Dax Norris, C
5 Joe Caruso, 2B	15 Chris Eilers, RHP	25 Kevin Berry, Coach	35 Scott Weil, 1B/DH
6 Drew Bounds, OF	16 Rick Detoto, RHP	26 Neal Lamb, RHP	36 Joel Colgrove, RHP
7 Nate Duncan, 3B/SS	17 Jim Wells, Head Coach	27 Tad Peterson, OF	37 John Collins, RHP
8 Mitch Gaspard, Coach	18 Tad Allen, LHP	28 Will Schluess, LHP	38 Jeremy Maddera, LHP
9 Rusty Loflin, OF	19 Craig Ainsworth, RHP	29 Alan Hill, C	



# BAMA SCORECARD

## Spring Dates

Spring football practice will begin March 9 with the annual A-Day Game in Bryant-Denny Stadium scheduled for April 15.

Bama will ordinarily practice Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The A-Day Game is counted as one of the 15 practices allowed. Ten practices are permitted to be full contact workouts, while five must be limited contact practices. As usual, spring training will be interrupted by The University's spring break, March 25-April 2.

## Lettermen

A total of 81 Alabama football players earned varsity letters for participation in the Crimson Tide's 12-1 season in 1994. Included in that number is a senior class of 26, which became the Tide's all-time winningest by posting a 45-5-1 record from 1991 through the past season.

The senior lettermen are holder Carl Albright, quarterback Jay Barker, wide receiver Rick Brown, fullback Anthony Burroughs, split end Roman Colburn, linebacker Jason Cole, cornerback Mickey Conn, punter Bryne Diehl, guard Michael Favors, fullback Jeff Foshee, safety Willie Gaston, offensive tackle Joey Harville, defensive end Dameian Jeffries, cornerback Tommy Johnson, linebacker Kevin Komisar, fullback Tarrant Lynch, offensive tackle Jeff McCullough, defensive tackle Brad Ranson, linebacker Shelby Robbins, linebacker Michael Rogers, linebacker André Royal, strong safety Sam Shade, center Darrell

Smith, guard Jon Stevenson, placekicker Matt Wethington and halfback Sherman Williams.

Others earning letters are:

Halfback Curtis Alexander, guard Maurice Belser, defensive end Darrell Blackburn, defensive end Vann Bodden, split end Curtis Brown, defensive tackle Shannon Brown, linebacker Tyrell Buckner, quarterback Brian Burgdorf, defensive lineman Kendrick Burton, split end Blair Canale, center John Causey, snapper Jackson Cook, linebacker Fernando Davis, offensive tackle Pete DiMario, defensive end Anthony Dowdell, linebacker Lamont Floyd, cornerback Brad Ford, guard Will Friend;

Return specialist Rhondi Gibson, tight end Patrick Hape, cornerback Tracy High, offensive tackle Joel Holliday, tight end Tony Johnson, defensive tackle Eric Kerley, split end Chad Key, snapper Chester Lewis, flanker Toderick Malone, offensive tackle Kareem McNeal, defensive end Kelvin Moore, tight end Josh Niblett, defensive tackle Matt Parker, offensive guard Jeremy Pennington, safety John David Phillips, linebacker Paul Pickett, defensive tackle Ozell Powell;

Placekicker Michael Proctor, halfback Dennis Riddle, linebacker Dwayne Rudd, tight end Rod Rutledge, strong safety Cedric Samuel, fullback Ed Scissum, strong safety Andre Short, linebacker Ralph Staten, halfback Brian Steger, punter Hayden Stockton, linebacker John Tanks, defensive tackle Bryan Thornton, cornerback Deshea

Townsend, quarterback Lance Tucker, strong safety Eric Turner, fullback Taurus Turner, linebacker John Walters, placekicker William Watts, flanker Marcell West, and guard Laron White.

## Football Honors

To the surprise of no one, Alabama quarterback Jay Barker was awarded the Pat Trammell Award, given to the football team's outstanding leader by the Birmingham-Jefferson County Alumni Association. The award is named for the Alabama quarterback who led the Crimson Tide to the 1961 national championship, became a doctor, and then died of cancer at an early age.

The presentation of the award came at the Tide's annual football awards banquet. Barker, fullback Tarrant Lynch, cornerback Tommy Johnson and strong safety Sam Shade were given captains awards. Tight end Josh Niblett received the President's Award for the football player with the highest cumulative grade point average. Academic All-Southeastern Conference honors went to Barker, Niblett, defensive tackle Shannon Brown, quarterback Brian Burgdorf, wide receiver Chad Key and placekicker Matt Wethington.

## We're In The Money

The January issue of *Money* magazine rated Alabama the 16th best school academically among the 25 schools in the final regular season CNN/USA Today coaches poll.

As with most subjective ratings, the criteria used by the magazine could be questioned. The magazine rated the schools on graduation rates for all undergraduates and football players, the percentage of undergraduates receiving financial aid, the percentage of students who earn advanced degrees, and the graduates' business success.

Among other SEC schools, Florida was ranked 11th academically, while Mississippi State was 22nd and Tennessee 23rd.

## Alabama With Majority

University President Dr. Roger Sayers voted with the majority on the academic issues at this year's NCAA convention. The NCAA membership voted to implement the new tougher academic standards for athletes, but to delay that implementation for a year. Current guidelines call for prospective student-athletes to have at least a 2.0 grade point average in core (college preparatory) subjects and to make at least 17 on the ACT or 700 on the SAT. Signees in the 1995-96 school year will have to have a 2.5 grade point average in

## 1995 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Sept. 2	Vanderbilt	Nashville
Sept. 9	Southern Miss	Birmingham
Sept. 16	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa
Sept. 30	Georgia	Athens
Oct. 7	* North Carolina State	Tuscaloosa
Oct. 14	Tennessee	Birmingham
Oct. 21	Mississippi	Oxford
Oct. 28	North Texas	Birmingham
Nov. 4	LSU	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 11	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 18	Auburn	Auburn
* Homecoming		
	SEC Championship	
Dec. 2	TBA	Atlanta
	(Times to be announced)	



13 core subjects (up from 11). The new standards will allow partial qualifiers to offset low standardized test scores by making higher grades in the core courses.

Alabama and the majority also voted against an athlete who is not eligible as a freshman being able to regain his year of eligibility in a fifth year.

#### Coaching Jobs

This fall it's a safe bet that former Alabama quarterback Jeff Rutledge won't be co-hosting Gene Stallings' television show reviewing Crimson Tide football games. Rutledge was named quarterback coach at Vanderbilt by new Head Coach Rod Dowhower. Rutledge played for Dowhower with the Washington Redskins, part of Rutledge's 14-year NFL career. Rutledge was Bama's quarterback 1975-78.

Rip Scherer, offensive coordinator at Bama under former Coach Bill Curry in 1987, has been named the new head coach at Memphis.

#### Looking South

When Ronnie Arrow resigned as head basketball coach at South Alabama early this season, two names with Crimson Tide connections popped up to be the Jaguars head coach next year. Alabama Assistant Head Coach Gregg Polinsky is one being rumored as a possibility. Another possibility with Bama connections might pose a ticklish situation for Athletics Director Joe Gottfried, but Gottfried's son Mark, a former Tide guard, is now a highly-regarded assistant coach under Jim Harrick at UCLA.

#### Brown Out

Anthony Brown, a junior forward who started the first seven games of this year's basketball season, has undergone shoulder surgery and will be lost for the remainder of the year. Brown, whose playing time had diminished since the beginning of the year, had surgery on the shoulder last June.

#### Recruiting Rankings

Bob Gibbons of *All-Star Sports Reports* in North Carolina is considered the top analyst of basketball recruiting. Although he didn't rank Alabama's early signing class in men's basketball as among the five best in the nation, he did rate the Tide's future backcourt of Brian Williams of Montgomery Jeff Davis as the nation's 24th best prep player and Anton Reese of Lithonia (Georgia) High School as 28th and said the two may give Alabama the next national backcourt of the future, comparable to the pair LSU signed a couple of years ago, Ronnie Henderson and Randy Livingston.

Another analyst, Tom Konchalski, rated Bama's class fifth best in the nation. Alabama's other signee in November was 6-9 forward Taveres Anderson of Greenville.

#### National Coach

Alabama Head Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody has accepted his first national coaching offer. On January 11 he was named head coach of the East Team in the 1995 U.S. Olympic Festival. The national games will be held July 21-30 in Denver, Colorado.

#### Hall Of Fame Nominee

Dwight Stephenson, an All-America center for Alabama in the late 1970s, has been named as one of 15 finalists for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Stephenson was an All-Pro for five years in his career with the Miami Dolphins and was selected to play in five Pro Bowls before his career was cut short by a knee injury. Stephenson was selected as the center on the Alabama Team of the Century in 1992. He was the center on Bama's 1978 and 1979 national championship teams.

#### Hall Of Famers

Two Alabama head coaches and a former staff member have recently been selected for halls of fame.

Bama Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs was selected to the inaugural class of inductees into the Ferrum College (Virginia) Alumni Sports Hall of Fame. Hobbs played for two years at Ferrum before finishing his playing career at Virginia Commonwealth. At that time Ferrum was a two-year college.

Tide Head Track and Field Coach Doug Williamson will be inducted into the Drake Relays Coaches Hall of Fame. Bama will participate in the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, April 28-29 and the induction of Williamson into the Hall of Fame will take place at a banquet April 27. Under Williamson, Alabama has won more relays than any of the more than 50 colleges in the Drake Relays.

Jim Goostree, who served as Alabama's athletics trainer for 27 years, is an inaugural member of the Alabama Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame. Goostree, who retired as executive athletics director for the Tide in 1993, was previously inducted into the National Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame.

#### A Scholar And A Golfer

Former Alabama golf star Jerry Pate has contributed \$20,000 and his Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate golf tournament has contributed another \$10,000 for a total of \$30,000 for the Jerry Pate Endowed Golf Scholarship at The University. Although Pate continues to play in an occasional tournament, the former U.S. Amateur Champion and U.S. Open Champion (among his eight PGA titles) is now primarily involved in golf course design and as a color commentator on ABC-TV.

#### Tour Players

Add one more name to the list of Alabama golfers who have earned their PGA Tour cards. Lee Rinker (1979-83) has moved up from the Nike Tour by earning his PGA card in January. He joins Steve Lowery, Dicky Pride and Jerry Pate as Bama's active PGA players.

Former Tider Tom Garner, who was active on the PGA Tour last year, did not qualify this year and will play on the Nike Tour. The Hooters Tour will include Spike McRoy and Jeff Street, while David Kirkpatrick and Marten Olander will play on both the Nike and Hooters tours. Olander, an honors graduate, had originally planned to enter graduate school at Alabama this spring, but elected to try professional golf.

#### Community Man

Former Alabama basketball player Keith Askins, now a player for the Miami Heat of the NBA, was selected as the first recipient of the Heat's Community Service Award. Although Askins is a little-used back-up player, he has been prominent in public appearances for charitable causes in the Miami area.

#### Looking For A Redshirt

Shondra Fuller, a junior forward for the Bama women's basketball team, suffered a season-ending knee injury last January, under going reconstructive surgery immediately following the injury and having another arthroscopic operation last summer. She tried to play early this season, but saw only 22 minutes of playing time in five games. Alabama will seek a medical redshirt for her.

#### Record-Breaker

Although 15th-ranked Alabama didn't fare well against Auburn in its swimming and diving meet in Tuscaloosa, losing to the nationally second-rated Tigers, Bama was not without success. Sophomore Rafael Alvarez erased a couple of eight-year old records as he scored a 352.20 in one-meter diving, breaking both the pool and school records. Alvarez also won the three-meter event. Bama divers are coached by Pat Greenwell.

#### Harris In Spain

There aren't a large number of opportunities for women basketball players to play professionally, but Betsy Harris, who finished her Crimson Tide career last year, is already playing for her second pro team. Harris, who was Midwest Regional Most Valuable Player in last year's NCAA Championship Tournament, joined a German team in November when the team was playing exhibition games in the United States. However, she elected not to go to Germany with the team. Now she has joined a team in Oviedo, Spain. She scored 17 points in her debut.



# 1994-95 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

## Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
80	Croatia (exh.)	41
<i>Pre-Season NIT</i>		
(single elimination tournament)		
79	Kansas State	48
69	New Mexico State	86
75	Verich Reps (exh.)	62
75	@ Virginia Commonwealth	57
77	Florida International	54
95	Florida A&M	48
73	Central Florida	60
68	@ Tulane (ESPN)	72
<i>Otis Spunkmeyer Classic @ Oakland, Calif.</i>		
83	TCU	64
76	California	73 (OT)
86	Central Connecticut State	39
74	@ Vanderbilt	75 (OT)
93	Virginia Military	67
74	@ Ole Miss	60
91	South Carolina (J-P)	59
61	LSU (ESPN)	74
68	Mississippi State (J-P)	64
Jan. 24	@ Arkansas (ESPN)	8:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	@ Tennessee	3 p.m.
Feb. 1	Auburn (J-P)	7 p.m.
Feb. 4	Georgia (J-P)	2 p.m.
Feb. 7	Southern Miss	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	@ LSU	7 p.m.
Feb. 15	Arkansas (J-P)	7 p.m.
Feb. 18	@ Auburn	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Kentucky (ESPN)	8:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	@ Florida (J-P)	2 p.m.
March 1	Ole Miss	7:30 p.m.
March 4	@ Mississippi State	7 p.m.
March 9	SEC Tournament	
March 12	@ Atlanta	

all times central

## Men's Swimming & Diving

Date	Opponent	Time
UA Score	Opp.	Score
71	@ Kentucky	42
70	Louisville @ Lexington	43
193	Cincinnati @ Lexington	63
140	@ LSU	102
141	South Carolina	99
Rammer Jammer Invitational		
Alabama 832.5, Miami 680.5, Clemson 669, Northeast Louisiana 590.5, FSU 512.5		

73	Clemson	40
83	Northeast Louisiana	30
114	Georgia	129
87	Auburn	147
110	@ Florida	132
Jan. 28	@ Tennessee	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 9-	SEC Diving Championships	
Feb. 11	@ Lexington	
Feb. 17-	SEC Swimming Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Columbia, S.C.	
March 4	Auburn Invitational	
March 9-	NCAA Zone Diving	
March 11	@ Lexington, Ky.	
March 23-	NCAA Championships	
March 25	@ Indianapolis, Indiana	

all times central

## Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
103	Uralmash, Russia (exh.)	91
67	Athletes In Action (exh.)	42
<i>Alabama/Sheraton Capstone Classic</i>		
73	Villanova	57
90	Grambling	70
<i>California-Irvine Invitational @ Irvine, Calif.</i>		
74	Colorado State	62
105	Notre Dame	87
93	Arkansas	79
<i>Texas-Arlington Invitational @ Arlington, Texas</i>		
102	Lamar	50
99	Texas-Arlington	62
99	Middle Tennessee State	70
<i>St. John's Invitational @ Jamaica, N.Y.</i>		
76	San Diego State	79
119	North Carolina-Ashville	46
102	East Tennessee State	64
73	@ Maine	75
71	Vanderbilt (ESPN)	63
84	Illinois	47
88	@ Florida	97
67	@ Georgia	91
85	South Carolina	62
Jan. 24	@ Auburn	7 p.m.
Jan. 28	@ LSU	3:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Central Florida	7 p.m.
Feb. 5	Tennessee (SportsSouth)	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	@ Louisiana Tech	7 p.m.
Feb. 11	@ Kentucky	3 p.m.
Feb. 15	Alabama State	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	@ Mississippi State	7 p.m.
Feb. 25	Ole Miss	7 p.m.
Feb. 27	Tennessee State	7 p.m.
March 3-	SEC Tournament	
March 6	@ Chattanooga	

all times central

## Women's Swimming & Diving

Date/	Opponent	Time/
UA Score	Opp.	Score
65	@ Kentucky	48
70	Louisville @ Lexington	43
205	Cincinnati @ Lexington	86
138	@ LSU	105
Rammer Jammer Invitational		
Alabama 1058.5, Miami 641, Clemson 627.5, FSU 584		

91	Clemson	22
100	Georgia	131
151	Northwestern	92
111	Auburn	132
96	@ Florida	137
Jan. 28	@ Tennessee	11 a.m.
Feb. 9-	SEC Diving Championships	
Feb. 11	@ Lexington	
Feb. 17-	SEC Swimming Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Columbia, S.C.	
March 4	Auburn Invitational	
March 9-	NCAA Zone Diving	
March 11	@ Lexington, Ky.	
March 16-	NCAA Championships	
March 18	@ Austin, Texas	

all times central

## Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time
193.825	@ Auburn	189.625
193.900	@ Penn State	193.025
193.900	Oregon State @ Penn St.	191.550
Jan. 28	Kentucky	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	LSU	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	@ Georgia	2:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Arizona State	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Illinois State	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	@ SE Missouri State	2 p.m.
Feb. 26	Missouri at Cape Girardeau	2 p.m.
Mar. 4	Georgia	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 10	@ Florida	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 17	Auburn	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 25	SEC Championships @ Gainesville	
April 8	NCAA Regional Championships	
April 20-	NCAA Championships	
April 22	@ Athens, Ga.	

all times central

## Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Result
Jan. 14	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	2nd
Jan. 22	Barnett Bank Invitational	
	@ Gainesville	
Feb. 4	Wildcat Classic	
	@ Lexington	
Feb. 11	Illini Invitational	
	@ Urbana, Ill.	
Feb. 25-26	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	
March 2	NCAA Qualifiers Meet	
	@ Gainesville	
March 4	USATF Championships	
	@ Atlanta	
March 10-11	NCAA Championships	
	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

## Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Result
Jan. 14	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	4th
Jan. 22	Barnett Bank Invitational	
	@ Gainesville	
Feb. 4	Wildcat Classic	
	@ Lexington	
Feb. 11	Illini Invitational	
	@ Urbana, Ill.	
Feb. 25-26	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	
March 2	NCAA Qualifiers Meet	
	@ Gainesville	
March 4	USATF Championships	
	@ Atlanta	
March 10-11	NCAA Championships	
	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	



# 1995 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

## Baseball

Date/ UofA Score	Opponent	Time/ Opp. Score
Feb. 18	Middle Tennessee	2 p.m.
Feb. 19	Middle Tennessee	2 p.m.
Feb. 21	Troy State	6 p.m.
Feb. 24	Northeast Louisiana	7 p.m.
Feb. 25	Northeast Louisiana	7 p.m.
Feb. 26	Northeast Louisiana	2 p.m.
Feb. 28	Austin Peay	2 p.m.
Mar. 1	@ Samford	2 p.m.
Mar. 4	Penn State	2 p.m.
Mar. 5	Penn State	2 p.m.
Mar. 6	Penn State	2 p.m.
Mar. 8	West Florida	
Continental Aggie Classic @ College Station, Texas		
Mar. 10	@ Texas A&M	7 p.m.
Mar. 11	New Mexico	10 a.m.
Mar. 11	Illinois	1 p.m.
Mar. 12	New Mexico	10 a.m.
Mar. 13	Illinois	10 a.m.
Mar. 13	@ Texas A&M	8 p.m.
Mar. 17	Western Michigan	7 p.m.
Mar. 18	Western Michigan	7 p.m.
Mar. 19	Western Michigan	2 p.m.
Mar. 21	South Alabama	7 p.m.
Mar. 22	South Alabama	2 p.m.
Mar. 24	South Carolina	7 p.m.
Mar. 25	South Carolina	2 p.m.
Mar. 26	South Carolina	2 p.m.
Mar. 29	Auburn @ Hoover	6 p.m.
Mar. 31	Florida	7 p.m.
April 1	Florida	2 p.m.
April 2	Florida	2 p.m.
April 4	Auburn @ Huntsville	7 p.m.
April 5	Samford	7 p.m.
April 7	@ Tennessee	6 p.m.
April 8	@ Tennessee	3 p.m.
April 9	@ Tennessee	1 p.m.
April 11	@ Alabama-Birmingham	6 p.m.
April 12	Alabama-Birmingham	7 p.m.
April 14	@ Mississippi State	7 p.m.
April 15	@ Mississippi State	2 p.m.
April 16	@ Mississippi State	2 p.m.
April 19	Livingston	7 p.m.
April 21	Ole Miss	7 p.m.
April 22	Ole Miss	2 p.m.
April 23	Ole Miss	2 p.m.
April 25	@ Notre Dame	7 p.m.
April 26	@ Notre Dame	5 p.m.
April 28	@ LSU	7 p.m.
April 29	@ LSU	2 p.m.
April 30	@ LSU	2 p.m.
May 5	Arkansas	7 p.m.
May 6	Arkansas	2 p.m.
May 7	Arkansas	2 p.m.
May 10	@ Middle Tennessee	6 p.m.
May 12	Auburn @ Montgomery	6 p.m.
May 13	@ Auburn	6 p.m.
May 14	@ Auburn	1:30 p.m.
May 18-	SEC Tournament	
May 21	@ Starkville	

all times central

## Men's Tennis

Date/ UofA Score	Opponent	Time/ Opp. Score
Jan. 27	@ Miami	12:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Pepperdine @ Miami	8:30 a.m.
Feb. 11	Southern Miss	9 a.m.
Feb. 11	Southwest Louisiana	6 p.m.
Feb. 17-	SEC-Big 10 Challenge	
Feb. 18	@ Knoxville	
Feb. 26	Alabama-Birmingham	1 p.m.
March 11	Ole Miss	2 p.m.
March 16-	Blue-Grey Championships	
March 19	@ Montgomery	
March 22	Tennessee	2 p.m.
March 25	Middle Tennessee	9 a.m.
	@ Nashville	
March 27	@ Kentucky	1 p.m.
March 29	@ Vanderbilt	9:30 a.m.
April 1	@ Florida	11 a.m.
April 4	Auburn	3 p.m.
April 9	Arkansas	1 p.m.
April 14	@ Georgia	1 p.m.
April 15	@ South Carolina	11 a.m.
April 19	Mississippi State	4 p.m.
April 22	LSU	1 p.m.
April 27-	SEC Championships	
April 30	@ Baton Rouge	
May 12-14	NCAA Regionals @ TBA	
May 20-	NCAA Championships	
May 28	@ Athens, Georgia	

all times central

## Men's Golf

Date	Event	Result
Feb. 18-	Gator Invitational	
Feb. 19	@ Gainesville	
Feb. 24	Queen's Harbour Intercollegiate	
Feb. 26	@ Jacksonville, Fla.	
Mar. 24-	Southeastern Intercollegiate	
Mar. 26	@ Montgomery	
Mar. 31	Carpet Capital Classic	
April 2	@ Dalton, Georgia	
April 21-	Billy Hitchcock Intercollegiate	
April 23	@ Auburn	
May 12-	SEC Championships	
May 14	@ Vanderbilt	
May 18-20	NCAA Regionals @ TBA	
May 31-	NCAA Championships	
June 3	@ Columbus, Ohio	

## Men's Track & Field

Date	Event	Result
Mar. 24-	Alabama Relays	
Mar. 26	@ Tuscaloosa	
April 6-	Sea Ray Relays	
April 8	@ Knoxville	
April 15	SEC Six-Way	
	@ Starkville	
April 22	Crimson Classic	
	@ Tuscaloosa	
April 28-	Drake Relays	
Apr. 29	@ Des Moines, Iowa	
May 7	Auburn Invitational	
May 18-	SEC Championships	
May 21	@ Tuscaloosa	
May 31-	NCAA Championships	
June 3	@ Knoxville	
June 14-	USA Championships	
June 17	@ TBA	

## Women's Tennis

Date/ UofA Score	Opponent	Time/ Opp. Score
Jan. 28	South Alabama	10 a.m.
Jan. 29	Mobile College	10 a.m.
Feb. 2-	Rolax National Indoors	
Feb. 5	@ Dallas	
Feb. 10	Miami	11 a.m.
Feb. 11	Alabama-Birmingham	1 p.m.
Feb. 12	Clemson	Noon
Feb. 18	@ Indiana	TBA
Feb. 19	@ Notre Dame	11 a.m.
Feb. 23-	ITA National Team Indoors	
Feb. 26	@ Madison, Wisconsin	
Mar. 4	Syracuse @ Kansas	1 p.m.
Mar. 5	@ Kansas	11:30 a.m.
Mar. 7	South Carolina	1 p.m.
Mar. 9	@ Auburn	Noon
Mar. 11	Tennessee	9 a.m.
Mar. 25	@ Ole Miss	11 a.m.
Mar. 27	@ LSU	2 p.m.
Mar. 29	@ Kentucky	2:30 p.m.
April 8	@ Georgia	11 a.m.
April 12	Mississippi State	2 p.m.
April 15	Arkansas	11 a.m.
April 16	Florida	10 a.m.
April 23	Vanderbilt	Noon
April 26-	SEC Championships	
April 30	@ Auburn	
May 12-	NCAA Championships	
May 20	@ Pepperdine, California	

all times central

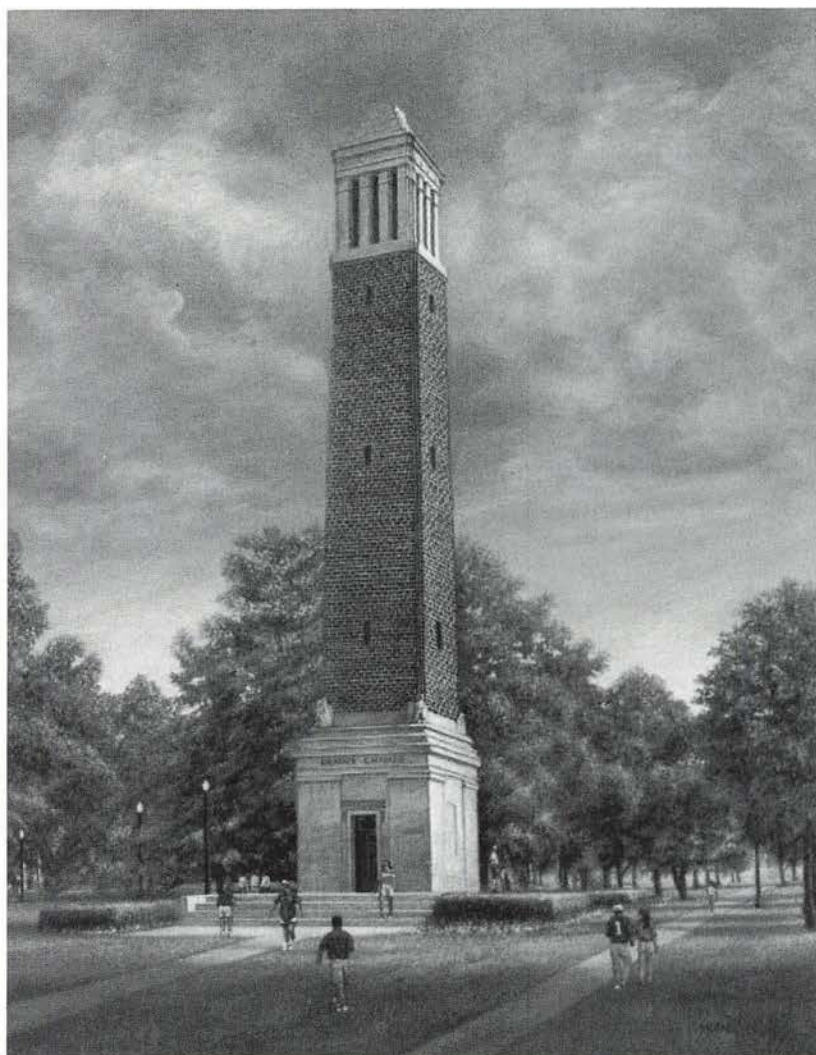
## Women's Golf

Date	Event	Result
Mar. 3-	Lady Gator Invitational	
Mar. 5	@ Gainesville	
Mar. 17-	LSU-Fairwoods Invitational	
Mar. 19	@ Baton Rouge	
Mar. 24-	South Carolina Intercollegiate	
Mar. 26	@ Columbia	
April 14-	Women's Southern Intercollegiate	
April 16	@ Athens, Ga.	
April 21-	SEC Championships	
April 23	@ Columbia	
May 11-	NCAA Regionals	
May 13	@ Memphis	
May 24-	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Wilmington, N.C.	

## Women's Track & Field

Date	Event	Result
Mar. 24-	Alabama Relays	
Mar. 26	@ Tuscaloosa	
April 6-	Sea Ray Relays	
April 8	@ Knoxville	
April 15	SEC Six-Way	
	@ Starkville	
April 22	Crimson Classic	
	@ Tuscaloosa	
April 28-	Drake Relays	
Apr. 29	@ Des Moines, Iowa	
May 7	Auburn Invitational	
May 18-	SEC Championships	
May 21	@ Tuscaloosa	
May 31-	NCAA Championships	
June 3	@ Knoxville	
June 14-	USA Championships	
June 17	@ TBA	





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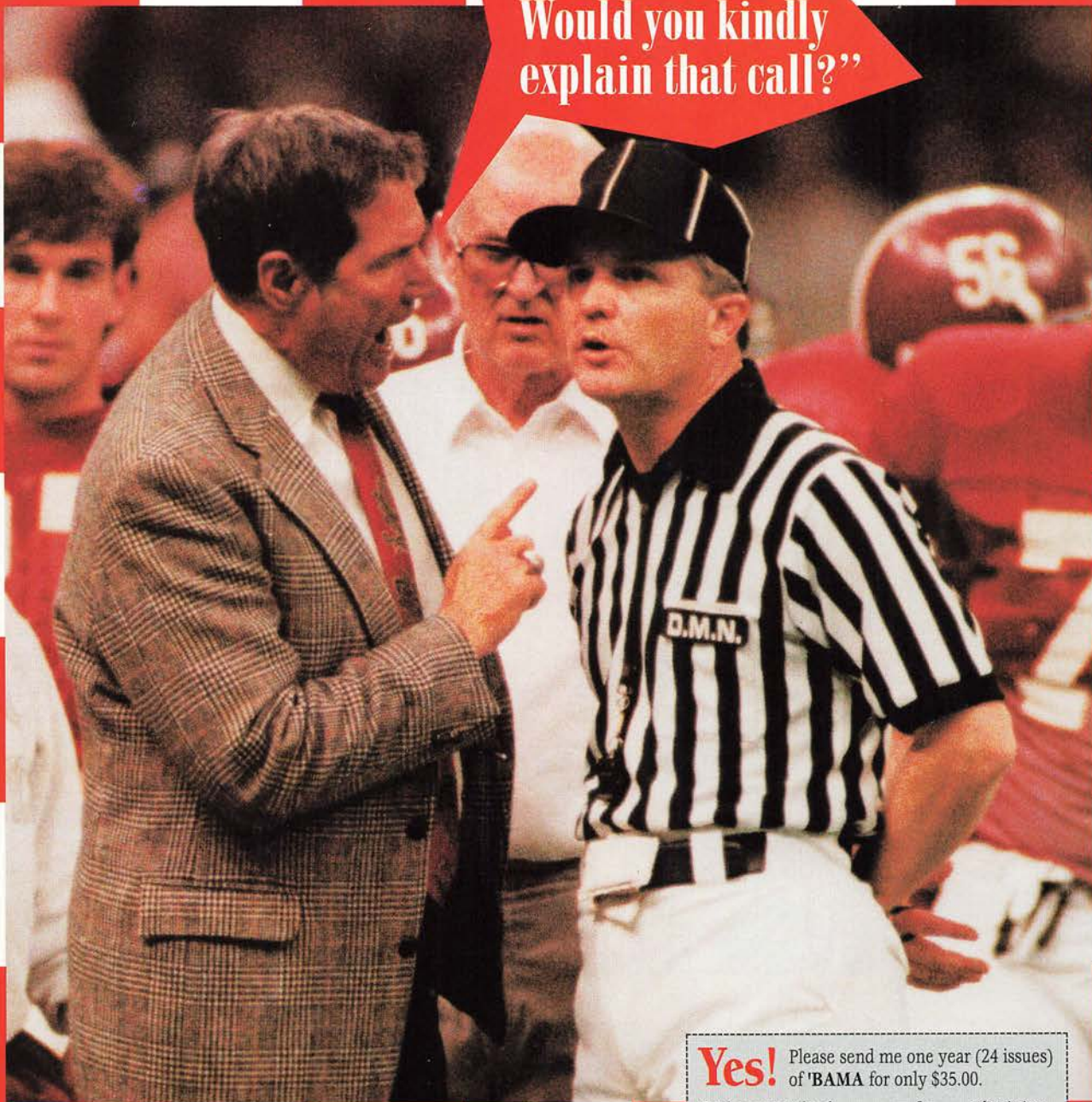
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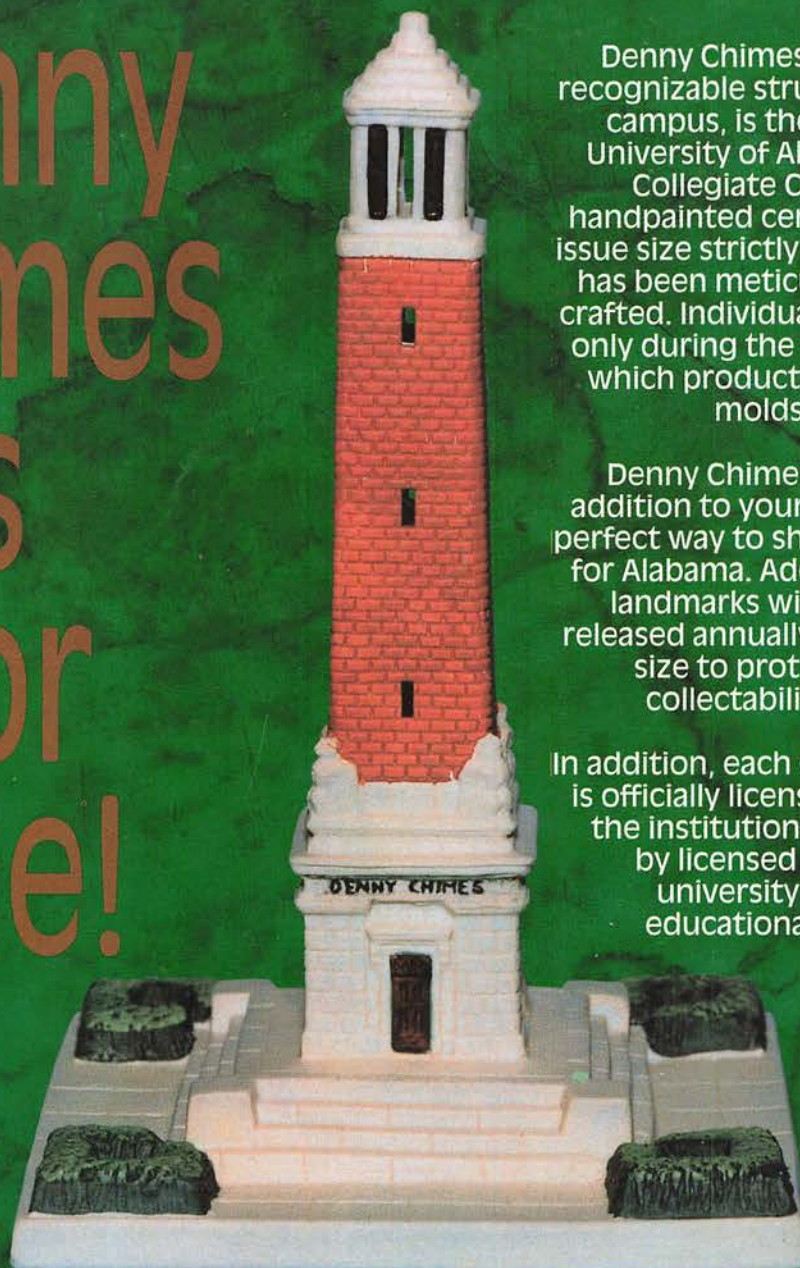
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